

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

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Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 29th July arrived per s.s. *P. E. Friedrich* on Wednesday, 26th August.

The French Mail of the 31st July arrived per s.s. *Ernest Simons* to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The river at Wuchow is 14 feet high.

A French consulate has been established at Mukden.

Reports continue to arrive of gold finds in Mindoro, in the Philippines. There are twenty camps on the Bimbal River.

Japanese Consulates are to be established at Batavia, Hamburg, Nicolaivsk, Tsitsihar, Tieling, Liaoyang and Portland.

The only newspaper published in the province of Kwangsi, which is printed at Wuchow, has suspended publication owing to lack of support.

A Tientsin paper states that Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co.'s handsome new pharmacy is getting the finishing touches done to it and will soon be ready for occupancy.

Mr. S. Mihara, formerly agent of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's Hongkong Branch, left Japan on the 5th instant for Seattle. Mr. Mihara becomes the general agent of the Company in America with headquarters at New York.

Mr. H. Figge has resumed charge of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank at Shanghai.

The "Echo de Tientsin" states that Mr. E. Rocher, recently French Consul-General in China will not be appointed French Minister to Peking, as was reported some time ago; but has accepted the appointment of councillor to H.E. the Viceroy at Nanking; and will take up his post very shortly.

The reorganisation of the Foochow dockyard is under consideration by the Government at Peking. Apparently proposals have been made for its enlargement and equipment with improved machinery. It has been decided to send men to visit dockyards abroad and to make recommendations.

In the Philippines, according to the "Manila Times," a loss of pesos 616,554 must be faced by the Customs during the present fiscal year, as this represents last year's collections on opium, and at a conservative estimate this would have been the amount taken had the prohibition of the drug not been made law.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Company are reported to have secured all the contracts in connection with the forthcoming visit of the American battleship fleet to Amoy. Not only will this firm supply the light, fittings etc. for the decorations, but even the liquid refreshments for the personnel of the fleet.

Wên Hai, Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, who was recently cashiered for attempting to deceive by signing a declaration that he was not addicted to the opium-smoking habit, while he was really a habitual smoker died on the 11th instant through unsuccessful efforts to break off the habit.

The directors of the Grand Hotel des Wagons Lits, Ltd., Peking, have been able to declare a dividend at the rate of 8½ per cent. and carry over Tls. 840 to working account; paying also a small dividend on the Founders' Shares. The capital of the company is Tls. 242,950, with Tls. 100,000 in debentures at 7 per cent.

During the six months since the conclusion of the immigration restriction agreement between Japan and America the number of Japanese emigrants to America decreased by 2,629 in comparison with that of the corresponding period of the previous year.

We regret to record the death which took place on the 17th inst at Hankow of heart failure, Mr. J. Thyen, head of Messrs. Melchers and Co's office at Hankow. The deceased was well-known and highly respected by all classes of business men in the treaty ports and his familiar figure will be missed by many residents in China.

The deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks in Japan on the 30th June amounted to ¥100,163,112 the depositors numbering 8,217,172. This gives an average of ¥12.16 each depositor. When compared with the corresponding period of last year, the figures show an increase of ¥19,379,875 in amount and 759,910 in the number of depositors.

A Tokyo telegram to the *Daily Press* dated August 24th, states that a serious outbreak of cholera has occurred on the steamer "Arratoon Apcar," and the vessel's departure from Yokohama has in consequence been delayed. Dr. C. M. Heanley, the assistant Government bacteriologist of Hongkong, who was a passenger on the steamer, has been seized with the disease, and Captain Stewart is also ill.

It is reported that the Chinese captain of the sailing ship concerned in the recent gun-running incident at Amoy has been sentenced to imprisonment for life. The rifles and ammunition seized have been confiscated.

The Chinese boycott of things Japanese which was responsible for the high freeboard of the "Tenyo Maru" on its maiden voyage across the Pacific, contributed, says the *San Francisco Chronicle*, to fill the liner "Korea," which arrived here to the overflowing point with Oriental freight. The "Korea" brought a large number of cabin passengers, nearly 100 Chinese and about 8,000 tons of cargo.

A Tientsin paper is informed of the arrival there of a Chinese merchant, who was, until lately, one of the leading wealthy native piece-goods dealers in Shanghai. He is now looking for a position, having lost everything in the recent trade debacle. He states that 80 per cent. of the dealers are finished, and that, in certain mixed goods lines, there is not one responsible Chinese dealer left in Shanghai. "We in Tientsin, at any rate, are not as bad as this!" says our contemporary.

An interesting point is raised in the report of the Tungku Medical Missionary Hospital. Dr. Kuhne remarks "it is much to be desired that we medical missionaries know more than we usually do about the Chinese art of healing. If we cannot lose much time over their complicated and groundless theories, let us at least know the names and the action of the drugs they have used for thousands of years. A well-educated Chinese pondering over this, said that, the utter neglect of their drugs was a great obstacle to their accepting ours. I know the reply which will be given me,—How can we use drugs the action of which we ignore? Could not the Medical Missionary Association in Shanghai undertake the systematic study of the most important drugs? If nobody be found, could not the association, as such, send an appeal to any scientific body at home or in America trying to find some pharmacologist ready to spend some years doing research work? If nobody comes we can at least send plants and specimens home asking for communications?"

Manila is appealing for "observers" to visit the Philippines. The Merchants' Association last week resolved to invite Mr. Roosevelt to visit the Philippines, and also to invite the hundred captains of industry of the Pacific Coast who are to be the guests of the Japanese Chambers of Commerce in a couple of months. To crown the afternoon's efforts the Merchants' Association also determined to appoint a committee to ask the Municipal Board to put the city streets in order as soon as possible. "A trio of worthy tasks," comments a Manila contemporary. "The visit to these islands of Roosevelt would afford that great statesman a chance to study our troubles and opportunities on the ground, while the hundred business men of California, Oregon and Washington, if interested in our offerings, attractions and possibilities, could almost double our trade in a year or two. We want distinguished men to come here. Especially we want great bankers, merchants and builders. We have the facilities to show them. All we need is their presence. Money could not be better spent than in paying court to such men. They make public opinion in America, and they control the money market."

TRADE UNIONISM

(Daily Press, August 22nd.)

It would seem that at last some slight prospect of placing Trade Unions upon a reasonable footing has arisen, and that too in a quarter where it might upon general considerations have been least expected, namely in France, where the working classes are generally considered to be more excitable and less compromising than those in any other part of the world. It would appear however, that during the last great strike, that namely of the masons, an amount of good sense was imported into the matter, which not only had the effect of averting an immediate difficulty; but which opened up a way to avoiding much trouble in the future. It has at last been recognised by the workmen that the attitude of Trade Unions need not be one of standing opposition to their employers, but that such associations may, if properly organised and satisfactorily worked, be made use of to the advantage both of employer and employed. On the other hand, employers have recognised that it would be to their advantage frankly to accept the trade unions, and to join with them rather than to endeavour to oppose their operation by counter-combination among themselves. A scheme has thus been set on foot for the formation of a joint union of employers and employed—the former being paying members and the latter to consist some of paying and some of non-paying members, while all workmen who are simple "associates" will be free from payment. It will be sufficient for the last named to join the Union,—from which, however, they will be at liberty to withdraw when they please—in order to participate in its advantages, in the form of insurance against illness or accident, provision for widows and orphans, and also in the form of pensions. The association will also provide that fellow workmen whether belonging to it or not, will receive a *minimum* wage for their work. On the other hand the employers agree to give all work in their hands to the members of the Association and to have recourse to outsiders only when the number of the former is insufficient for the work. The workmen on their part agree not to work (during the currency of their contracts) with employers who do not belong to the Union. At the same time, when the *minimum* of hours guaranteed by the Union have been given the workmen will be at liberty to obtain employment from outside employers if the Union has no further work to offer them. This arrangement is to be made for three years but can be renewed; and it has the advantage of protecting the workman against wages which are too low, while still leaving him free to join or not join the Union as he may wish. Thus the proposed Masonic Union, which gives the above particulars, will, if it be established have all the advantage without the well known drawbacks, of the old Trade Unions. The workmen and the employer will mutually engage not to have recourse to "locks out" on the one hand or strikes on the other, without first attempting conciliation either direct or by arbitration, and workmen will be free to avail themselves of the association either in part or in whole, as they see fit.

This well considered scheme seems likely to be accepted by the masons with probably some slight modifications, and it may be hoped that a similar course may be adopted in other directions. A like solution of the constantly recurring difficulty as to strikes has indeed before been adopted by individual firms with success and could, no doubt, be

generally applied. More than once, when a strike has been threatened, the employers have succeeded in averting a catastrophe by a fair and square discussion of the subject of dispute with the men; and such being the case, it is clear that the best interests of all concerned will be served by, if possible, placing Trade Unions upon such a footing that this mode of settlement of disputed points can be resorted to generally. While the right of workmen to combine for their own protection cannot but in fairness be recognised there has in many quarters been some feeling of opposition to the Trade Union system from a consciousness that, in many cases of strikes the employers are taken at an unfair disadvantage, and in fact are more or less driven into a corner. A strike is often inaugurated at a time when the employers have made themselves responsible for some specially large work and when consequently it is considered they will not be able to resist a demand for extra pay, if it be pressed upon them accompanied by a threat of deserting the work that must at any price be done. Such a course, though certainly not the best way to further the real interests of the workmen, is one that it is natural for them to resort to, and no objection could be taken to it, but for one consideration—and that is that as the men are not engaged in combination, they have not the right upon abstract grounds of justice to leave *en bloc*; and their combining to do so therefore runs very closely upon an illegal combination to bring pressure to bear upon their employers. The matter, however, will stand upon a different footing if it be understood, at the time they are engaged, that a union of this kind exists amongst them, and that their acting jointly at a given moment is a contingency that the employer knew of and accepted when he engaged them individually. This end will be thoroughly secured by its being accepted by both parties that the engagement of workmen on any given enterprise will be in accordance with conditions known both to employer and employed and embodied in the rules of an Association to which both belong.

TRADE DEPRESSION IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, August 24th.)

No subject can be of more general interest to readers in the Far East than the prospects of trade. For the past three years trade has been depressed in the Far East to an extent almost unparalleled in the recollection of the oldest firms. Anything therefore that the Chairman of such an institution as the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation may have to say on the subject of trade depression commands special attention by reason of the exceptional advantages which the leading Banking institution has of feeling the pulse of trade and forming an opinion as to the condition of the patient. It is encouraging, therefore, to note that, though hope deferred so long has tended to make many hearts sick, Mr. SHELLIM, on Saturday, felt justified in taking a hopeful view of the future. The Chairman of the Bank based his hope on the fact that the present cheapness of money and the diminishing stocks are factors which must sooner or later bring about a commercial revival, though he was constrained to admit that there are no clear indications yet of the long deferred rising in the trade barometer. When it does come it will be interesting to consider whether the revival is such as bears the stamp of permanence. Meanwhile many theories are advanced for the dullness of trade which has been so protracted, but the majority of them are in the nature of

temporary factors only, and we may not unprofitably inquire whether there are not reasons for this depression of a more permanent character than the dislocation of trade by flood and famine and the accumulation of stocks.

In the first place we have to take note of the fact that the balance of trade has been against China for many years past. In 1901 the imports exceeded the exports by 27 per cent; in 1902 by 28 per cent; in 1903 by 31 per cent; in 1904 the excess increased to 43 per cent, in 1905 to no less than 97 per cent, and in 1906 it dropped to 74 per cent. The greatly increased import trade in 1904 and 1905 was largely financed by remittances to maintain the Russian and Japanese armies in the field, and in 1906 it must be set down to evacuation costs. We may, therefore, regard the normal position of trade as being about 30 per cent. against China. We have to add to this drain the indemnity payments to the Foreign Powers, demanded as reparation for the Boxer rising, as well as the interest on China's foreign loans. Up to 1895 the Empire had practically no foreign debt, but as a result of the war with Japan a foreign debt of over £50,000,000 was incurred. With exchange against her, China's foreign obligations entail an annual charge of something like forty-five million taels. This, it will at once be realised, seriously affects the purchasing capacity of China, and we must look for the remedy to increased exports. The Chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation mentioned the satisfactory fact that, in spite of the severe crisis of last season, the total of the combined exports of China and Japan shows that the trade is one which is still on the increase. There is no need to emphasise the fact that the resources of China are immense and only need development. China has in the past neglected her opportunities. The tea export trade has been practically ruined by indifference and lack of enterprise. But many evidences are now to be observed that the Chinese from one end of the Empire to the other are beginning to appreciate the necessity for developing the resources of the country and in this lies one of the best hopes of the future of foreign trade. The increased facilities for trade which the railways in course of construction will afford as they are completed must lead to trade development, and nothing will serve so much to influence currency reform in China as rapid communication between the various parts of the Empire. China has shown how indifferent she is to the representations of the Foreign Powers on the subject, but when the evils of the existing chaos are emphasised by rapid communications we may look to the development of a public opinion among the Chinese themselves which will force the central government to action in the matter. What is wanted, in short, to ensure a permanent revival of foreign trade is an improved financial administration, a uniform currency, and more enterprise on the part of the Chinese in the development of the country's resources by improved methods.

In view of the remarkable increase in recent years in the number of persons climbing the famous Mount Fuji in Japan a telephone service is now being established between the top and the foot of the mountain. Also, in view of the large influx of foreigners expected to visit the famous mountain during the coming exhibition, it is proposed to build resting places and refreshment stands on the top and to establish telegraphic, and telephonic stations and other facilities; and to furnish electricity to illuminate the mountain top at night.

A SUGGESTED CHINESE AMERICAN ALLIANCE.

(Daily Press, August 25th.)

The latest alliance between nations to be discussed is that in which the United States of America and China are represented as the principals. The proposition we must take it is seriously made by the *New York Herald*, which is endeavouring to create a public opinion in favour of this union. So far the subject has been confined to the journalistic world; it has not entered the political domain, and we doubt if it is likely to do so. In the first place it may well be asked what are the advantages of the suggested treaty? What inducement is there for a Power like America to ally itself with China, ponderous, unwieldy and weak? The benefits to China are, of course, very apparent. Such an alliance would strengthen her position in the eyes of the world. Any nation, tempted by China's comparative helplessness, would henceforth pause before seeking to carry out contemplated designs on this vast empire (although one would suppose that there are sufficient guarantees already on this point), and China would be able to command greater respect in international counsels than at present; a result which would not be without material gain. But, on the other hand, what benefits are likely to accrue to America? We know that she has been doing her best to secure friendly relations with the Chinese. She has remitted a portion of the Boxer indemnity and in other ways has sought to win the goodwill of China. With what object? Commercial results highly favourable to American trade may ensue, an achievement greatly to be desired after the regrettable estrangement two or three years ago. This is, no doubt, good business in the eyes of merchants and exporters, but what concrete benefits will be gained by the nation? None, so far as we can see, except the doubtful advantage to which we shall refer later.

It has been truly said that newspapers have the power to make war and to make peace, and true as this is when applied to European journalism it is still more applicable to the Press of America. The *Herald* represents a force in that country. It is more conservative than the ordinary American newspaper, and is certainly not to be classed with the "yellow journals." Consideration is given to its opinions, and usually its proposals do not pass unheeded. As we have already remarked, there is nothing to indicate that such an alliance has been considered by the responsible statesmen, but that should not preclude the proposition from being discussed on its merits even at present. We have briefly examined the proposed arrangement without discovering the *quid pro quo* which America might expect to receive, and the only suggestion which remains is that a certain section of Americans, fearing future hostilities directed against them by Japan, wish to make a move which will checkmate the Nippon Government. The bitterness which recently arose between America and Japan has given place to a better feeling to-day, but there are people who are, nevertheless, far from sanguine as to the future. Much of course depends on the point of view but the actual conditions of to-day would seem to belie such gloomy prognostications. Yet, if the proposed treaty be not aimed at Japan, we fail to see what other object it can have. It cannot be regarded in any other light than as a threat to Japan, and as such it represents a menace to the peace of the world.

Among the Chinese, possibly in the North as much as in the South, the idea is well received, but the support given to it is born of undisguised hostility to Japan. Not one Chinese in a hundred, we venture to believe, would have any other idea on the subject. Yet no alliance of the kind, had it been in existence, could have availed to stop Japan from doing any one of the acts which have given offence to the Chinese people. Whatever benefits the Chinese may see in such an alliance, there can accrue to America no advantage that we can see beyond what the existing commercial treaties confer, but the disadvantages are doubtless sufficiently obvious to the people of America to prevent them seriously entertaining the idea as a project within the sphere of practical politics at the present time. When China has arisen as it were from the dead ashes of her former self and stands up as a Power in the world, conditions will be changed, and doubtless nations will seek her aid then, but meantime her weakness would imperil the very existence of the country which allied itself with her.

CHINA AND OPIUM.

(Daily Press, 26th August.)

The constant references in the Chinese Press to action taken by the Imperial Government in pursuance of the resolve to suppress the opium-smoking habit must convince the most sceptical that China is just now thoroughly in earnest about the matter. But those who are familiar with the history of the opium question in China will not need to be reminded that China has been just as terribly in earnest on the subject before. China's opposition has always ostensibly been on the ground of the harm the drug does to its consumers; but heretofore the insincerity of her indignation over "the sinful revenue of the British-Indian Government" was plainly evidenced by the direct encouragement which was all the while being given to the cultivation of the poppy in China. Now, however, we read of peremptory orders being sent to the cultivators of poppy to reduce the cultivation, and even in some cases to take up seeds that had already been sown. Here is the real test of China's present sincerity in the matter, and her ability to carry out the policy she has enunciated will be tested when the economic effects of this restriction force themselves upon the attention of the Government and the populace at large. Mr. MORSE, the Statistical Secretary of the Customs, considers that it may be safely asserted that the production of opium in China to-day is, at the lowest, six-fold, and is more probably eight-fold, the quantity of the present import of foreign opium. What is to take the place of the poppy in the vast agricultural areas which are now devoted to its cultivation? Will the farmers be content to grow cereals yielding to them perhaps but a fraction of their present revenue from poppy cultivation? There is no news from the poppy-growing districts that the growers are imbued with a spirit of philanthropy in the matter, and great popular discontent in the opium-growing districts is inevitable; more especially as restricted cultivation means loss of employment to probably thousands of people now engaged in the cultivation and preparation of opium. These opium growing districts for the most part are situated in provinces which are in a chronic state of unrest. But China has entered upon the task with her eyes open. She must be fully aware too of the discontent which must certainly arise from the shifting of the incidence of taxation which

will become necessary in consequence of the abolition of all traffic in opium, native or foreign. What the taxation of opium yields to the Chinese Government we have no statistics to show, but in the aggregate it must be a very large sum. When Sir ROBERT HART, in 1881, made an attempt like Mr. CLEMENTI has recently done to estimate the number of opium smokers in China, he incidentally estimated that the total amount spent by China on the opium luxury produced at home and imported from abroad, was about £25,000,000 annually. And his estimate was that only 3½ per thousand of the population were opium smokers. Mr. CLEMENTI has formed a higher estimate on the basis of the latest statistics. He has put the opium smokers down as approximately 2 per cent but it will be seen from another column that a Chinese calculation gives 15 per cent of the male population over fifteen years of age, which is stated without proof to form "an infinitely greater percentage than can be shown by any European country in the case of alcohol." This statement will not bear investigation, but assuming the Chinese estimate to be approximately correct, the fact still remains that the revenue derived from the taxation of the luxuries of the few must be recouped by the taxation of the necessities of the whole people. Whether alcohol will take the place of opium, as many people believe, is a question which time alone will decide. The Customs statistics of the import of wines, beer and spirits during the last few years cannot safely be taken as a guide, for the import of these beverages while the Russian and Japanese armies were in the field was doubtless abnormal. It is noteworthy, however, that in 1907 the import of wines was larger than it has ever been, and beer shows a substantial increase on the import of 1906.

Finally, we may note in this connexion the astonishing increase of late years in the import of morphia for hypodermic injection. It has been suggested that this growth in the import has arisen from "the well-meant administration of anti-opium pills containing the alkaloid, intended to satisfy the craving without the knowledge of the druggard that opium was being administered in any form" but without discussing that we may infer that opium smoking became popular in China as an antidote to malaria. China is a land of waters—of great canals and canalised rivers, and of irrigation on a most extensive scale: Malaria is probably prevalent among the Chinese people to a greater extent than the world has any conception of, and opium is known to have been used as a remedy long before Jesuits bark and quinine were discovered, and looking at the opium question from this standpoint the absolute prohibition of the supply would appear to be gratuitous cruelty. No amount of newspaper argument, however, will avail to alter the determination of the Government; but it is interesting to note the probable consequences of the prohibition while we wait to see how the Chinese Government propose to deal with them.

The funds necessary for the construction of the first class hotel which Manila feels is necessary in view of its growth and importance have practically been raised. The *Cable News American* reports that 300,000 pesos has been raised by subscription by the directors of the company that is to float the new Luneta Hotel. This together with the P600,000 that is to be donated by the Insular government will just about make up the amount necessary to commence work. The plans are now being drawn by Architect Parsons.

THE SUBSIDIARY COINAGE EVIL.

(Daily Press, August 27th.)

It is rather more than twelve months since the Government issued its notice that all Hongkong subsidiary coinage received in accordance with law by Government Departments would be melted down and sold, so as to reduce the amount in circulation to that required by the necessities of business in the Colony. This policy has had some small effect on the subsidiary coinage evil, for the rate of discount on the Hongkong coins has been dropping, though the fall cannot be regarded as a heavy one. Hongkong 20-cent pieces are now quoted at \$6.80 per cent discount as against \$7.78 per cent. on Chinese 20-cent pieces, and Hongkong 10-cent pieces are quoted 6.85 per cent discount against 8.40 per cent for the Chinese coin. This gradual appreciation in value of the Hongkong subsidiary coins is certainly satisfactory, but, until the Government is prepared to shut out the Chinese coin, it can benefit nobody but the Government and perhaps the money changers. The futility of the hope of getting the Chinese authorities to reduce the output of the Canton Mint is evidenced in the translation our Canton correspondent gives to-day of a communication made by the officials of the Finance Department to the Viceroy. It appears that the British Minister in Peking has again been urging on the Wai-wu-pu the necessity for temporarily stopping operations at the Canton Mint, and the report of the financial authorities of Canton on the subject is absolutely opposed to the proposal. The promise given last year that the output should be reduced by 8,000 taels' worth of subsidiary coins a month is shown to have been broken. There was, they say, a demand for these coins and they met it, despite the promise given to the British Minister; and now, in regard to Sir JOHN JORDAN's second request, the Canton financial authorities dispute His Excellency's premises in the matter and stand out against compliance with the request. It is perfectly clear, therefore, that if the subsidiary coinage evil is to be corrected in Hongkong, the Government must go the length of restricting the importation of Chinese coins, and absolutely forbidding the circulation of Chinese coins in the Colony. Merely to warn the public that Chinese coins are worth so much less than Hongkong coins is obviously insufficient while the subsidiary coinage in circulation in the Colony appears to be four-fifths Chinese. Past experience has proved how futile it would be to recommence minting with a view to providing the Colony with an adequate supply. Of the 40 million dollars worth of these coins put into circulation by the Government, enough, presumably, remains somewhere to cover the needs of the Colony ten times over. As fast as they were issued they disappeared out of the Colony when the output of the Canton mint was insufficient to meet the demand for subsidiary coinage in Kwangtung province; and if the Hongkong Government were still to go on minting we would not retain the coins in the Colony so long as people were left as free to utter Chinese coins as they are now.

It is clear that we cannot look for much amelioration as a result of any effort on the part of the Canton Mint authorities. Their reply to Sir JOHN JORDAN's request is a naive and instructive comment on the whole question. The controllers of the Mint take no account of the fact that the Hongkong Government has not only ceased to mint any more subsidiary coin, but is retaining and melting

down what is being paid into the Treasury, in order to rehabilitate its subsidiary coinage. What the Canton authorities say is: "Our coins are demanded by the public and if we restrict the output they will draw supplies from Hongkong." Even now when the discount on subsidiary coin is as high as it is, the minting at Canton is apparently profitable, and the controllers of the Mint are evidently strongly disinclined to sacrifice the profits in the general interests of trade. They profess not to see that a depreciated coinage is a tax on trade and commerce, and they do not even recognise that depreciation is the result of over-production. So long as such abysmal ignorance prevails in regard to elementary facts like these and while the controllers of the Mint are permitted to disregard a promise when it is given to a Foreign Minister, it must be confessed there is little to be hoped for by the Hongkong Government in the way of co-operation. We can hardly believe, however, that the Board of Finance in Peking will be impressed by the views advanced against the adoption of Sir JOHN JORDAN's suggestion, but, should the Board decide to temporarily stop the minting of subsidiary coins at Canton, it is to be hoped that the promise will be honourably fulfilled.

THE BOYCOTT.

(Daily Press, 28th August.)

The news from Canton during the past few days plainly shows that no relaxation of the boycott of Japanese goods is yet countenanced by the Cantonese Guilds. Evidently a very close system of espionage is maintained to ensure the strict observance of the orders of the guilds in the matter. When a member of a guild is proved to have dealt in Japanese goods he is apparently mulcted in heavy penalties. It may be accepted as evidence of the power exercised by these guilds that we hear of no open defiance of their orders in the matter, and of extremely few cases of clandestine dealings in the banned articles of trade; nor do we hear of offenders who have been mulcted refusing to pay the penalties the guild inflicts for "unpatriotic behaviour." No doubt the ostracism which a refusal would entail would prove far more expensive. It is curious to note, however, that while the guilds are re-affirming their intention to ensure a strict enforcement of the boycott, the Viceroy of Canton is pleased to accept from the Government of Japan not only a monetary contribution but a large consignment of goods of Japanese manufacture towards the relief of the sufferers by flood in the riverine districts of the province of Kwangtung. The continuance of the boycott for so many months has undoubtedly been a severe blow to Japanese trade and commerce. Its effect on Japanese shipping has been especially marked, and most of the Japanese steamship companies engaged in the China coast and river trade have been obliged to go in for drastic economies. How long is this state of affairs to be permitted to continue? For the Government of Japan to make strong representations to Peking on the subject would doubtless serve only to make matters worse. She has wisely been adopting a conciliatory policy, but if there is any indication of improvement in the situation it cannot be very substantial. There is no present intention on the part of the guilds to allow the boycott to "fizzle out," and so far as the attitude of the officials goes, no consuming desire has been manifested to end the tension and restore friendly trade relations

between the two peoples. There is only too much reason to fear indeed that the boycott movement has the Viceroy's entire sympathy, and that nothing is likely to be done either by moral suasion or by force to break the tyranny which the guilds exercise in restraint of trade. The Chinese Government at the present time appears to be exerting itself to suppress various political organisations which have proved themselves to be embarrassing to the local governing authorities, and the Government might well take into consideration the dangerous tendency of the trade guilds to enter the sphere of political action. What is the difference, so far as Japan is concerned, between the present situation and that of half a century ago when restraint of trade was deemed by Foreign Powers sufficient excuse for war? It would be idle to plead that to-day it is not the Government who are enforcing restrictive measures, but the merchants themselves. The Government cannot entirely free itself from responsibility and blame while it allows these guilds to exercise a tyranny in restraint of trade and gives no sign of its disapprobation of such proceedings. The neglect of the authorities to intervene with the object of stopping the boycott can only be viewed as lending it encouragement, and the Japanese Government would, it seems to us, be amply justified in making the prolongation of the boycott the subject of a strong diplomatic protest at Peking. We are not specially concerned for the power at which the boycott is aimed. The weapon the Chinese are using has been directed before against the Americans, and unless the Chinese Government is made to feel its responsibility for the losses that ensue, it may at some future time be levelled against the trade of other Powers. The Chinese Government has the power to end the boycott, and its neglect to do so can only be regarded, in diplomatic parlance, as a distinctly unfriendly act.

THE CHINA TEA TRADE.

(Daily Press, August 29th.)

We have been so accustomed now for many years to the annual lamentations in the Consular and Customs reports over the decline of the China tea trade, that it is not a little refreshing as well as surprising to read of a member of Parliament feeling so much concern about the reviving popularity of China tea in England as to plead with the Chancellor of the Exchequer for a preferential duty in favour of teas grown within the British Empire. The fact that the returns during the last few years have shown a substantially increasing import of China tea into Great Britain has supplied Mr. FALL, the Conservative member for Portsmouth, with a distinct mission in Parliament. If we are not mistaken it was Mr. FALL who unsuccessfully endeavoured last year to induce the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make this discrimination, but the Chancellor of the day was not inclined to admit the likelihood of China tea competing effectively with Indian tea. Mr. FALL, however, attended the House of Commons last month primed with statistics in support of his plea. The import of China tea which was 5,900,000 lbs in 1905, he told the House, rose in 1906 to 13,500,000 lbs and in 1907 to 19,000,000. These figures, the hon. member said, showed that the consumption of China tea was increasing rapidly in England and it might, he urged, become "a dangerous competition with the tea of India and Ceylon, as the public taste in such matters could not be predicted." Let the Chancellor of the Exchequer should think

only of the strong position acquired by the Indian and Ceylon teas in the market; Mr. FELL reminded him that Natal was now developing a tea trade with the Motherland and that it is proposed to cultivate tea in Uganda. These countries, therefore, would benefit by the discrimination, and Mr. FELL urged that it was the Government's duty to secure to the tea growers in the great Dependency of India and the Colonies, that the great market of England should be assured to them in the future. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, however, refused to assent to the proposal for reasons which he was careful to say bore no relation at all to his views regarding Colonial preference. The financial reasons against it, he said, were ample so far as he was concerned. He went on to say that, looking at the importation of China tea, as compared with the consumption of Indian and Ceylon tea, he did not think preference would make any very great difference, but in any case, if he felt inclined at all to levy a special tax as against the foreigner, he did not think he should begin with China, "for China in trade treated us very fairly." Mr. FELL only secured 34 supporters for his amendment while 251 voted against it.

This little incident gives rise to some interesting reflections. Down to fifty years ago China supplied practically all the tea infused in the United Kingdom. India then was only just beginning to take lessons in tea-growing, and she was getting instruction from China. The first shipment of Indian tea to England, a parcel of 500 lbs., was made in 1838, and it took India over twenty years to bring her shipments up to a million pounds. Since then the industry in India has progressed by leaps and bounds, and to-day the tea sent to England by China represents but one-fortieth of the total quantity imported. The recent efforts of the China Tea Association in London to arrest this decline have evidently met with some measure of success, but it is extremely doubtful whether for many years to come China tea will regain its lost supremacy in the British market. It is not a question of public taste alone that decides this question. The statistics of the past few years show that the English taste has not been so thoroughly perverted as to make the prospects entirely hopeless for China tea. Sweet and substantial are the uses of advertisement. At no time since the competition became so keen has China tea been so well advertised as during the past few years. It has been recommended on medical grounds as well as on account of the delicacy and cleanness of its flavour; and the growth in the consumption has demonstrated the value of the advertisement. Mr. MORSE, in his recent book on the trade of China, expresses the opinion that the market can never be recovered even by reduced price. That statement, if based alone on the question of taste, might well be questioned in view of what has been accomplished during the last two years. But the China tea trade is handicapped by several other factors, and the Chinese Government, it may be hoped, recognise this. About a month ago instructions were sent from Peking to the Viceroy and Governors of provinces which produce tea, urging the necessity of steps being taken to improve the manufacture of the tea by the adoption of modern methods, and recommending the formation of an Association for the encouragement of the tea industry. But can "modern methods" be adopted in China? Mr. MORSE makes the following reference to this question:—"Indian tea is prepared and fired by mechanical appliances, the use of which is possible only where, as

in India, large plantations of a thousand acres or more, are under one management: in China all is done by hand, and no change can be made in a country where the individual cultivator has only a small patch of a very few acres, ten acres being a large plantation." Moreover, Mr. MORSE mentions that in twenty years of a declining market the tea shrubs have been left unpruned and uncultivated and it is doubtful if they can ever recover their old-time condition. And finally the author draws attention to the fact that while in India there is no tax on the production or export of tea, the Chinese fiscal system is "to tax everything in sight." There is not only an export duty which for forty-five years remained at Tls. 2.50 a picul (reduced since 1903 to Tls. 1.25), but on the way from the producing district to the shipping port there is levied a series of taxes, amounting on the average to more than Tls. 2.50 a picul for official tax, with something to be added for irregular levy and delay and loss of interest. "No industry thus burdened could compete with a rival free of all burden," adds Mr. MORSE. Now that the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce have the tea industry under their consideration it is to be hoped that these handicaps to the trade will not be overlooked.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

What's this I hear? That proposals are being made to give members of the sanitary staff free passages when going home on holiday. I thought the Government had acted very fairly towards them in listening to their cry of woe and giving them greater fixity of salary, and added to that they have taken over the Widows' and Orphans' Fund and guaranteed greater benefits. Now, it is sought to bestow additional favours on them and pay their passages home on holiday. It looks as if it is impossible to satisfy some of our civil servants, whose wants increase the more they are met. I fancy there is little prospect of this arrangement being carried through for some little time to come. The financial problems of the local Chancellor of the Exchequer are already too numerous to warrant the Colony being saddled with another little item of expense.

Mr. Hooper, I am surprised! You were the last man I would have expected to see before the Magistrate under the New Buildings Ordinance. And you are the very first! I dare say explanations will follow in due course, but at present it looks as if the Building Authority is not without a sense of humour. But that is a risk which jokers take. You can never tell when your little effort will return like a boomerang.

The days when Solomon's wisdom is dispensed from the bench are not over. This week the public must have been delighted to notice that the gentleman who presides over the Second Court at the Magistracy was confronted with a problem which called for no little thought. Should the prisoner accused of stealing a cat be convicted or discharged? It did not seem to matter whether he was guilty or not. Then a brilliant thought entered the magisterial oranium. "Will the prisoner return the cat to the owner if he is discharged," asked his Worship, and the prisoner, too pleased to show his amazement, declared that he would, notwithstanding that he would thereby lose, on his own statement, the six cents which he had paid for the cat. The decision may have been a wise one. I cannot dispute it, but it looks as if Mr. Wood was more inclined to show a little misplaced sympathy with the prisoner than to remember the claims of the prosecutor.

Has it ever occurred to you to inquire into the significance of the word "present" which we see so frequently employed in addressing business communications in the East. The subject has attracted some attention in Shanghai,

where a correspondent suggests that its use be dropped, and the name of the town or city substituted. It seems to me that the practice is more American than English or Eastern in origin, and that "old custom" sanctions its use, particularly on letters delivered by messenger and not through the Post Office. A griffin might also ask questions about the gift book system which does not obtain anywhere else but in the Orient. I have not studied the matter but it appeared to me such an obvious measure to check untrustworthy messengers that I never inquired into its origin. Perhaps some of my readers have different ideas on the subject.

It is a trite observation that one must go abroad to hear news of Home, but as another illustration of the fact I may quote a Japan paper which chronicles the arrival in that country of a Mr. Goodwin, "who claims to possess a harmless and certain cure of the opium habit." This Mr. Goodwin is reported to have given lectures to several thousand Chinese at Hongkong, and to have successfully treated a number of natives. It is strange that the Hongkong newspapers have been absolutely silent about Mr. Goodwin. I should not imagine from the notices in the Japanese papers that Mr. Goodwin is one of those philanthropic beings who love to do good by stealth. If he is, he must be blushing to find it fame. Personally I have never heard anything about Mr. Goodwin's lectures or cures in Hongkong. Has anybody else?

The boycott of Japanese goods continues in unabated force in Hongkong apparently, for in Chinatown he who is able to read the Chinese ideographs may see in many of the shops notices to the effect that "Japanese goods are not ready," or that they are "out of stock." But in Japan there appear to be indications that the boycott is gradually subsiding, for business inquiries, it is stated, have recently been coming forward from South China, especially in the marine produce market.

A correspondent who wishes me to secure an improvement in the sanitary arrangements on board the Macao steamers evidently believes in the power of the Press. I am not aware of the conditions which he depicts, but I am sure the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company will do their best towards removing the subject of the complaint as they are naturally anxious to popularise the steamers on the Macao run. Captain Clarke will doubtless take the matter in hand.

Following upon the publication of last week's notes which included a paragraph having reference to—I may say the unintentional—discourtesy shown to His Excellency the Governor, the Peak Tramway Company very promptly notified that they were taking steps to prevent a repetition of the occurrence. A notice is now posted in the cars to the effect that the two front seats are reserved for His Excellency the Governor when travelling. As I have said, the discourtesy was doubtless unintentional, and now that the particular seats which are reserved for the Governor's use when travelling are specified there can be no excuse for a repetition of the occurrence.

RODERICK RANDOM.

A native newspaper published in Hankow has been suspended by order of the Hukwang Viceroy, for having reproduced certain articles written by K'ang Yu-wei and Liang Chi-ch'ao.

The wives of ten officers of the American battleship fleet, including the Captains of the New Jersey, Georgia and Nebraska, together with two daughters of Captain Sutherland of the New Jersey, arrived at Yokohama on August 9 to await the arrival of their husbands. From Yokohama they will proceed to Manila by the P. M. S. Korea, which is due to sail on October 24, the date of the departure from Yokohama of the Fleet. The party is known as "The Married Club," and it is the club's intention to visit the various ports at which the Fleet touches.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

August 20th.

POLICE AND RELIGION.

The 24th day of the 7th moon (30th August) is the Birthday of the Guardian Spirit of the City. Every year on that day thousands of men and women in Canton and the neighbouring villages and towns go to the Guardian Spirit Temple in the Old Walled City to worship that god, and they remain in the temple all through the night sleeping anywhere so as to "absorb the heat of the earth," as the Chinese say, and in the hope of the Guardian Spirit visiting them in their slumber and bestowing upon them good luck or restoration to health.

The Guardian Spirit Temple is one of the largest joss-houses here, but the concourse of people on such occasions has always been so great that many are compelled to sleep in the street. The best and surest place for receiving blessings from the god is the floor just under the shrine of the Joss; after that the various compounds adjoining the joss-house, and lastly the street.

There has always been a great struggle for the place of rest at night inside the temple and even in those compounds nearest to the joss-house.

Naturally the bad characters of the City take advantage of such a confused gathering, and they flock there to pick pockets, snatch earrings and hairpins. They commence operations at about sun-set when the worshippers start to scramble for places of repose. The noise made and the filthy language used by people of both sexes, in disputing over places, are deafening and horrible, and the utter disregard displayed for the sanctity of the place is enough to disgust and drive away the most humble and patient god.

The Chief of Police has issued a prohibition against the people sleeping in the temple on the night of the god's birthday.

The proclamation states that the ancient people established gods and religions to caution the ignorant people against doing evil, but now temples are erected as money-making places. The promiscuity displayed by men and women is immoral, while sleeping on the tile floor and in the compounds is unhealthy. It encourages theft and on the whole is calculated to disturb the peace; hence these gatherings should be prohibited. Moreover the death of the gate keeper (caused by the collapse of a wall in the temple during the recent typhoon) who was accustomed to sleep there every night is sufficient to prove the absurdity of the idea that sleeping there one night preserves one from harm.

THE FLOOD FUND BAZAAR.

Yesterday the Committee reported that they had collected a further sum of \$2,611.50 from the outstanding accounts.

The Canton Press have written a joint letter thanking the members of the Bazaar Committee for the good services rendered by them in the recent Bazaar and at the same time requesting them to furnish, as soon as possible, the total sum of the proceeds of sales at the Bazaar, including donations.

August 25th.

SUPPRESSION OF ILLEGAL SOCIETIES.

The local Authorities have received the following Imperial Edict by cable:—

"This Imperial Edict is issued to inform you that I (Emperor) have recently heard that there are numerous societies established in both the Northern and Southern Provinces bordering the Sea Coast under the general name of Political Information Societies. Amongst these Societies there are many members who are prominent seditious criminals who under shelter of these societies get the people to subscribe large sums of money and form factions under the pretext of investigating the political and commercial affairs of the country, but in reality they are secretly scheming and inciting insurrections and creating trouble and generally design to disturb the peace of the public. If stern measures are not immediately taken to investigate and suppress these societies it is feared that they will corrupt and ruin the people. I have ordered the Board of Census, Viceroys and Governors of all the

Provinces, Generals in command of the armies, and the Prefect of Shun Tien to make rigid and minute inquiries and adopt stringent measures to suppress these societies. All officials are instructed to arrest and severely punish the members of these associations and not to look upon this as an unimportant matter as negligence on your part may result in involving the State in serious calamity. Respect this (Edict)."

The above edict refers to the Self-Government Society, Association for Protection of Chinese Rights, Investigation Society, and so forth, all of which only sprung up last year. They express freely their opinions on governmental matters and very often hamper the actions of the local authorities. Trouble was bound to crop up, for while nothing like representative government is as yet established, these so-called societies arrogate to themselves power to interfere in any and every matter, and they undoubtedly constitute a standing danger both to their countrymen and to foreigners. I mentioned the danger of the existence of these societies last year when they interfered with the West River Patrol question.

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

Recently the Board of Revenue at Peking sent a despatch to Viceroy Chang stating that the British Minister had requested them to order the Kwangtung Mint to cease for a time to coin subsidiary coins. On receipt of the despatch the Viceroy instructed the Provincial Treasurer, the Bureau of Local Affairs, and the official in charge of the Mint to consider the matter and report their opinions. The following is the gist of the report sent to the Viceroy:

"The merchants and the people have long been accustomed to the use of the 20 cent coins. If we cease to mint these, then we have to look to foreign sources for a supply. The British Minister on the pretext of the interests of commerce has requested that the coining of them be stopped. Your predecessors have previously reported on this subject giving full particulars and substantial proofs. This year the British Minister has again taken up the subject and discussed it with the Wai-wupu. On the last occasion, with a view to prevent international complications, the Wai-wupu was reluctantly compelled to comply with the request of the Minister and ordered the (monthly) production of subsidiary coins to be reduced by 8,000 taels.

"As it was said that by stopping the minting of subsidiary coins the business of the merchants and the people would be facilitated we disregarded the question of profits accruing from the minting of the coins. We still found, however, that it was occasionally necessary to stamp several thousand dollars' worth of ten cents coins, to meet the public and private business transactions of the Mint. As the people are so accustomed to the use of subsidiary coins we were compelled to mint a certain quantity above the usual limit so as to facilitate circulation and meet the demands for change for dollar coins.

"On the present occasion the British Minister has again requested that the minting of the subsidiary coins be stopped and has supported his request by saying that the premium on foreign banknotes is daily increasing &c., &c. But the fluctuation of premium on foreign banknotes really depends on the cornering of subsidiary coins in the market, and has nothing to do with the amount of subsidiary coins minted. The British Minister does not appreciate the real condition of affairs, but simply puts the blame on the Kwangtung subsidiary coins. His Excellency's statement is not based on a full review of the facts. Moreover, the amount minted above the limit is only an additional sum of coins necessary to meet the payment of salaries of officials and soldiers and at times on account of insufficient subsidiary coins in the market required for the transaction of the business of the merchants."

THE FLOOD—JAPAN'S GIFTS.

It is reported that the Japanese Government has sent the following articles to the Viceroy in aid of the flood sufferers:—

- 7,100 rolls of cotton piece goods.
- 25,000 bottles of medicine (?)
- 7,000 catties of flour.
- 10,000 tins of preserved cabbage.

The Viceroy gave instructions to the Commissioner of Customs to pass these goods free of duty. They arrived here by the s.s. 'Kwong Sai' on the 24th instant.

August, 26th.

INCREASE OF SALARIES.

Prices of all kinds of articles having increased considerably of late, almost doubling the cost of living to what it was a few years ago. Sir Robert Hart last year instructed the Commissioner of Customs in the Kwangtung Province to add to the salaries of the Chinese staff of the Customs a bonus of 10 per cent. on this account.

It is now reported that Mr. Paul H. King, Commissioner of Customs here, has received instructions from the Acting Inspector-General of Customs to replace the bonus by a definite increase of 10 per cent. in the salaries of the Chinese staff, commencing from the month of October.

THE BOYCOTT.

The following is a translation of a circular issued by the Piece Goods Guild here:—

"We beg respectfully to inform you that on the 16th day of the 4th moon this year the Guild sent a notice round to all the merchants calling upon them to carry out the duty of upholding the honour and dignity of the people and the country. We are deeply grateful to the merchants for answering the call.

"In the meeting held to-day we all declared that hereafter we will not purchase any fresh goods (Japanese) and will strictly adhere to our duty to our country.

"Following is a list of the regulations framed at the meeting and we trust that you will obey them:—

1. Hereafter all merchants of this Guild will not purchase any fresh goods. Those who break this rule are liable to be fined \$50 for each offence. Seventy per cent. of the fine will be given to the informer and 30 per cent. will be retained by the Guild. This will act as a warning to the merchants.

2. Should a delinquent firm or merchant refuse to pay the fine imposed, all the merchants of the guild will cease to transact business with that firm and we will immediately publish the name of the firm in the newspapers, denouncing the proprietors of the firm as men devoid of shame, so as to caution others.

3. The merchants of this guild will cease to transact business through any brokers who are discovered to be clandestinely purchasing (forbidden?) goods on behalf of any firms. The breaking of any of the above rules means disobedience."

The Bank Guild has also announced to the public that they have recently discovered that several banks are devoid of shame in making money by purchasing money (Japanese) and negotiating drafts. They state that the proprietors of these banks are desirous of breaking up the Boycott Union, and that the public are greatly incensed against them for their "abominable behaviour."

The Guild has resolved that hereafter, if any of these "cold-blooded reptiles" should have the audacity to disregard the rules of the guild, all other banks will cease to transact any business whatever with them.

THE FLOOD FUND BAZAAR.

The Bazaar Committee reported that they collected \$637.70, \$418.60 and \$7,045.50 on the 23rd, 24th and 25th instant respectively.

It is reported that many of the prominent purchasers at the Bazaar have not yet paid the money enabling them to take delivery of their purchases.

The Bazaar Committee have not complied with the request of the Canton Press who asked to be supplied with particulars of the auctions. In the meantime much unpleasant correspondence has passed between the Committee and the Press. The merchants in Fatshan recently decided to hold a similar Bazaar, but have now announced to the public that they have abandoned the idea. This is probably due to the existing unsatisfactory state of affairs in connection with the Canton Bazaar.

"INCOMPREHENSIBLE LAWS."

Recently the Hien-ching Pin Cha Koon, the New Board or Department established at Peking to make preparations for parliamentary government, sent a despatch to Viceroy Chang

inclosing for his consideration a copy of the new laws. The Viceroy, after perusing the laws carefully, has memorialized the Throne to the effect that Chinese laws are too stringent and foreign laws too lenient. The Government should strive after the happy medium. He says moreover that there are a lot of new terms (Japanese) in the new laws sent to him by the above Department and that these are incomprehensible to every one, including the Chinese professors of the local Law College who studied in Japan. The officials being unable to grasp the meaning of the laws how, asks the Viceroy, would the people interpret them? Now-a-days when so many international affairs arise, these incomprehensible new laws might lead to complications involving the State in serious trouble. He advised that laws should be drawn up in Chinese style and he entreats the Board to eliminate foreign terms and words.

August 27th.

OFFICIAL MATTERS.

The local Authorities have received a cablegram from the Board of Education at Peking requesting them to inform the public that all schools and colleges whether Government or private institutions must be under the control of the Literary Chancellor of the Province.

Viceroy Chang has received telegraphic instructions from the Central Government not to increase the export duty on native tea. The telegram states that this will encourage and stimulate the cultivation.

ELECTROCUTED.

About 7.30 p.m. on the 26th instant one of the employees of a fan-tan house situated in Wai Oi Street while adjusting an electric lamp suspended over the centre of the fan-tan table happened to lay his hands on the wire where the rubber covering had been worn off. He was unable to release his hand and was burnt to death. A foki of the house who tried to release the body received such a terrible shock that he immediately dropped down senseless and was taken to the hospital.

KWANGSI REBELLION.

The merchants and the people of Kong How petitioned Viceroy Chang for compensation from the Government for damage done and loss sustained by them through the rebellion of the soldiers. The Viceroy replied as follows:—

"On receipt of telegraphic information that the soldiers at Kong How had rebelled I immediately despatched Admiral Li Tsun with troops with orders to exterminate all the rebels. According to telegraphic reports sent to me from time to time by the various civil and military officials it appears that the rebels have been almost exterminated. The troops have captured and beheaded over 100 soldiers who had rebelled and only about 20 are at large. These have decamped to Cheong Chow and Yew Shan. I have wired instructions to the military officials to give pursuit and punish them.

"According to the official report in hand the number of soldiers who rebelled on this occasion was a little over 100 and the shops and residences plundered and robbed by them numbered less than 30. I am surprised to find in your petition the statement that over 300 soldiers rebelled and that they pillaged over 1,000 shops and families. I am afraid you have purposely said this to make matters look more serious than they really are. However, I will give instructions to the Provincial Judge of Kwangsi to investigate thoroughly into the matter. In the meantime I will order the date for payment of compensation to be postponed to the 24th day of the 8th moon."

28th August, 1908.

PIRACY AND BRIGANDAGE.

Owing to frequent complaints having been made to the Wai-wu-pu by the various Foreign Ministers at Peking regarding the piracy and brigandage committed in the Kwangtung Province, and the repeated requests to increase both the military and naval forces in that Province so as to provide adequate means for the protection of Foreigners and foreign commerce, the Wai-wu-pu has recently cabled instructions to Viceroy Chang to devise every possible means to stamp out piracy and brigandage in the Kwangtung Province, and has requested His Excellency to furnish full particulars of the

total number of soldiers stationed at each Treaty Port, the names of all the military officials in command of the troops; whether they are capable men; what knowledge they possess of the methods of capturing pirates; and whether these officials are well versed in International Law or not.

The telegram also requests the Viceroy to furnish a list of the number of gunboats that are now stationed on the rivers and the sea coast where commerce is carried on, the types of the different kinds of vessels, their names, and the names of the officers in command of them, &c.

The Wai-wu-pu instructs the Viceroy to make minute and thorough investigations into the above matters and requests him to forward a detailed report as soon as possible.

A FRAUDULENT PRACTICE DETECTED.

Mr. D. H. Cameron, the energetic and popular manager of the Standard Oil Company of New York here, recently discovered that some unprincipled Chinese were purchasing empty kerosine oil tins of the "Star" and "Eagle" brands of the company, refilling them with inferior oils, and selling it as genuine oil of the Company. He immediately requested the American Consul to report the matter to the Viceroy, and asked that steps be taken to put a stop to the fraud.

It is reported that His Excellency has instructed the Nam Hoi and Poon Yu Magistrates to make rigid and minute inquiries into the matter, and to arrest and severely punish the offenders, and also to issue a proclamation prohibiting these fraudulent practices.

CHINESE REFORM ARMY.

The first batch of soldiers of the reformed army here have completed their course of three years military training, and will be permitted to return to their native districts in the course of next week to take up whatever employment, trade or industry that suits them, to earn a living. The Viceroy has given instructions to the Commander-in-chief to send them home under the charge of officers. Yesterday the Chief Military Instructor visited the barracks and distributed passports to the soldiers.

THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

Yesterday a special meeting was held at the Company's head Office for the purpose of electing six new directors and four auditors by ballot. There was a very large attendance of officials and shareholders. The Provincial Treasurer and Judge, several Taotais, the Kwong Chau Commodore, and the Nam Hoi and Poon Yu Magistrates were also present at the meeting.

The following persons were elected Directors of the Company:—Messrs. Kwong Shau Man representing 166,916 shares; Fung Lai Po, 165,318 shares; Lau Yu Fong, 151,666 shares; Mak Chung Fu, 120,130 shares; Lai Lok Ting, 116,811 shares; and Lam Hok Kum (Comptroller of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Canton) 115,042 shares.

Auditors elected:—Messrs. Wong Tsan Tong, Kwok Hon Shun, Chun Min Yu and Hui Shiu Shew.

The official followers and the gatekeepers of the Railway Company created a great disturbance during the meeting, and almost came to blows over a paltry sum of two dollars "tea money," which the officials' attendants alleged to have been withheld from them.

It is said that at every meeting the company has to give at least a \$100 bribe, or "tea money" as the Chinese say, to the retinue of the officials. These bribes were prohibited by Koong Taotai when he was Acting Provincial Judge, but shortly after his departure the corruption started again.

29th August 1908.

NEW GUNBOATS.

In reply to a despatch received from the Board of War regarding the cost of building and equipping the four shallow-draft gun boats for patrolling the West River, His Excellency Viceroy Chang states that two of these vessels are being built by the Whampoa Dock Company of Canton, and two by the Kwong Hip Loong firm of Hongkong. All four vessels will be equipped with modern guns of the Krupp Arms Factory.

The contract price for each vessel is \$64,700 not including equipment of arms and certain other outfit. The total cost of the four vessels including equipment &c. will be \$20,000 taels, to

be paid in three instalments, of which two have already been paid. This amount was drawn from five different departments viz:—The Provincial Treasury, The Salt Commission Bureau, The Bureau of Local Affairs, The Likin Bureau and the Customs Bureau, each contributing a sum of 64,000 taels. The four gunboats are nearing completion and will shortly be delivered to the Admiralty department.

A SHREWD OPIUM OFFICIAL.

About two months ago the Chief of Police was authorized by the Viceroy to establish a Public Institution for the treatment of habitual opium smokers. Expectant Prefect Cho was appointed Superintendent of the Institution. Mr. Cho at once rented a large house in the City and had it converted for the purpose. The place has accommodation for 60 persons and is conducted at the expense of the Provincial Government. All persons admitted into the place for treatment will only have to pay for their meals as no charge is made for medical treatment, medicine, opium pills and lodging.

Only a few persons have applied for admission since the opening of the institute. Mr. Cho was rather distressed over this, especially when the generosity of the establishment in giving away opium pills free of charge, is considered, as his position would be jeopardised if nobody patronised the establishment. However, he was determined to solve the difficult problem by hook or by crook, and at last the remarkable idea of giving free "chow chow" struck Mr. Cho, and yesterday he issued the following notification:—

"This notification is issued to inform the public that from and after the 5th day of the 8th moon all licensed opium smokers who are admitted into this establishment for treatment will have all meals supplied to them free of charge. People who are habitual opium smokers and who have not taken out a license for smoking will also be admitted on the above terms upon furnishing a bond to the institution bearing the chop of a substantial shop or firm. As there will be numerous applications for admission, it is advisable that intending applicants should call at the Institution and register their names so as to secure admission before it is too late."

OFFICIAL MATTERS.

The local Authorities have received a cablegram from Peking stating that their Excellencies Ting Tsan Tok and King Sing, Ministers appointed for the suppression of opium smoking, will shortly visit all Provinces to find out if any of the Viceroy and Governors are addicted to opium smoking.

Yesterday the officials here received cable news from Peking that an Imperial Edict was issued on the 27th instant that the Throne had definitely decided to establish a Parliament in China in 1917. The telegram states that the Edict was a very long one, containing over 700 characters.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

August 27th.

FLOOD FUND BAZAAR.

This Bazaar has proved a great success, over \$50,000 having been realised. The principal supporters were, of course, Chinese; the most notable purchasers being the Lu and Chan families.

A DELAYED TESTIMONIAL.

Though it is more than three months since the departure of the late Governor Senhor Coutinho, the address which was prepared for him has not been forwarded to him, and neither has the silver cover for the address for which subscriptions were collected. The Leal Senado has been strangely lacking in this duty, and it is only stating the obvious to say that the address should be sent round for signatures at once and despatched to its destination.

AN INTERESTING CEREMONIAL.

On Tuesday last a meeting in commemoration of the capture of the Passa-leang fort by Vicente Nicolau de Mesquita, in 1859, was held in the Military Club hall room. Captain J. L. Marques eulogised the valour of the dead hero in the presence of a large audience which included a daughter of the deceased Colonel Mesquita. Of the thirty-six soldiers who volunteered to accompany the

Colonel in the attack on the fort one is still alive, Senhor Luis do Rosario. The veteran, who is in his 80th year, was invited to be present, but he could not attend as he was not feeling well. Refreshments were afterwards dispensed to the guests.

AN AMERICAN-CHINESE ALLIANCE:

A CHINESE VIEW.

The *New York Herald* has been urging in very strong terms an alliance between America and China. That such a development of diplomacy would be a strong factor in maintaining a state of Peace in the Far East cannot be doubted, and that both in American and Chinese eyes it has much to recommend it, is obvious.

We are inclined to doubt whether the American Public are as yet in a mood to contract such an alliance or to support their Government in such a project. The American is a great stickler over the colour question and has particularly strong racial prejudices. He is, however, a particularly keen business man, and if it can be shown that such an alliance will be commercially advantageous to his country, all other considerations will very probably be allowed to take second place.

The formation of such an alliance would be in many ways advantageous to China. Her neighbour Japan is undoubtedly diplomatically strengthened enormously by her alliance with Great Britain. This moral support is of far more importance to her in dealing with other countries than even her reputed military and naval prowess.

Without any belligerent record, China, marching steadily towards reform, would find the moral support of a great country like America of the utmost value. The Foreign Legations would have to adopt a modified attitude towards America's ally and could not dictate unreasonably as they are at times prone to do to an isolated and vulnerable China.

The immigration question would also be put upon a far more satisfactory basis when negotiated with an ally, than can at this present be approached.

In return for the benefits which might be expected to accrue to her from such an alliance, China would only have to concede trading advantages to America, which would be as beneficial to her people as to those of her ally. She would have a powerful and wealthy assistant to help her forward in the path of reform. By aiding China to advance, America would shortly develop a friendly state in the Far East which would be a rival to the objectionable supremacy of Japan, which is the only country who can threaten her possessions in the Philippines.

As the situation stands at present, the Far East is a potential seat of conflagration. With the clash of interests which may at any moment cause friction sufficient to rouse nations to arms, the disturbing element of an ambitious and none too diplomatic country like Japan needs much watching. That lack of funds is liable to make it impossible for Japan to attack America's possessions in the Philippines, at present, does not render it any the less imperative for America to prepare a safeguard in the future, and an alliance with China at the present juncture might secure to the United States a firm and grateful ally at some future period of storm and stress. Altogether such an alliance might be looked upon with a great deal of favour by both nations.—*Chinese Public Opinion.*

On the 11th inst. a dinner was given in Mukden at Government House, by H.E. the Viceroy to the departing American Consul-General, D. Straight, who has since gone home on leave via Siberia. Covers were laid for eighteen, and there were present, beside the guest of the evening, Messrs. Parker and Townshiff, American agricultural experts, engaged by the Chinese Government for work in Manchuria; Mr. Arnell, and Mr. J. O. P. Bland, with the Japanese Consul; the others being Chinese officials. Mr. Kreier, of the Astor House Hotel, Tientsin, had personal charge of the catering.

HONGKONG.

Lieut.-Col. H. D. Stacpole, Army Accounts Department, has been appointed Chief Paymaster at Hongkong.

The General Managers of the Green Island Cement Co., Ltd. announce an interim dividend of forty cents per share for the half year.

Dr. H. G. Hobson, of Robinson Road, Kowloon, and Dr. G. H. Fitzwilliams of the Peak Hotel have been registered as duly qualified to practise medicine and surgery in this Colony.

An order made by the Governor-in-Council under the provisions of the Post Office Ordinance, 1900, states that on and after September 1st, 1908, the rate of postage on parcels to Germany via Naples will be 60 cents on each parcel in addition to the postage payable if sent via Gibraltar.

Some good swimming has been done recently at Kowloon Dock. Two young men of the Dock staff, McBride and Wilson, swam the other night from Kowloon Dock to Quarry Bay in an hour and twenty minutes. This, considering the currents to be encountered, is a very creditable performance indeed.

In the Marine Magistrate's Court on Aug. 26 before the Hon. Commander Basil Taylor, R.N., Harbour Master, Captain G. L. M. Willoughby, master of the Government steamer "Stanley," charged Rudolf Hatje, master of the German s.s. "Hilary," with unlawfully allowing rubbish to be thrown from his ship at 11 a.m. on Tuesday. Defendant denied the charge, which was eventually proved, and a fine of \$30 was imposed.

A burglary at the "Lucas Scientific Diamond Palace" in Queen's Road Central was reported to the police on Aug. 27th. The thieves had evidently effected an entrance through a broken fanlight above the back door and collected undisturbed a fairly large booty. It included some of the most valuable articles in stock, artificial diamonds set in gold, etc., and though the amount stolen has not yet been calculated it is tolerably certain to reach close upon four figures. No clue has been obtained whereby the thieves can be traced.

The deaf and dumb Chinese millionaire, Chu Pak Ngok, received a summons charging him with negligently driving his motor car whereby he knocked down and hurt a little girl. Before the summons was heard the police ascertained that the parents of the girl had accepted \$20 as compensation and the summons was withdrawn. However, the police proceeded against him for being the owner of a private vehicle for which he had no licence. A substitute appeared before Mr. Kemp at the Magistracy on August 25th and a fine of \$10 was inflicted.

The compound of the Central Police Station has presented an extraordinary scene of animation during the last few days. On Aug. 22nd 183 time-expired labourers from the Dutch East Indies arrived and were handed over to the police pending arrangements for their deportation. The following day 55 vagrants came up from Singapore and were likewise taken into police custody. There is no place where these people can be accommodated and they are to be kept in the compound under guard. On Sunday when they were engaged in washing the spectacle was anything but inspiring. Should the weather have proved disagreeable the plight of these poor fellows would have been beyond words. As many as 131 left by the San Cheung on Sunday night, but over 100 remained in the compound and a day or two later a batch of 72 arrived from Saigon.

At the Magistracy on August 27th Mr. Kemp heard a charge preferred against two "coolie snatchers" by Sergt. Earner with obtaining money from a boarding house keeper by means of false pretences. It appeared that they brought seven coolies to the boarding house and coached them under promise of receiving money to declare that they were willing to go to Singapore. They also taught the men to say the same thing on going before the Registrar-General and explained that at the subsequent examination they could withdraw this statement. In the meantime the "coolie snatchers" would receive money from the boarding house keeper and this they would share with the coolies. As arranged the coolies on the second examination refused to go to Singapore, and as the result of inquiries being made the conspirators were arrested.

At present it looks as if a band of bad characters had reached Hongkong. The reports of snatching from the person have been unusually numerous within the past week or so and the police are having a busy time in looking after the rascals, who are very daring in their methods, even attacking people in daylight.

Another instance of the "tricks that are vain" was given at the Magistracy on Aug. 27 when a Chinaman employed at the Naval Yard was brought before Mr. Wood on a charge of stealing rivet heads. As is known, the employees are searched on leaving the works, and the defendant knowing this had put almost a pound of these heads in his mouth. However, the trick was discovered. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

Four of the crew of the s.s. "Obihli" were charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Aug. 22nd with being in unlawful possession of 380 taels of prepared opium. The opium was found in a cabin occupied by the defendant's and six other sailors, but possession could not be proved. His Worship discharged the defendants and confiscated the opium. Three other members of the crew were found in possession of small quantities of opium. One man was fined \$15, and the other two \$10 each.

LOCAL SPORT.

INTERPORT ROWING.

Mr. H. G. White, hon. secretary of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club, has received a letter from the Shanghai Rowing Club inviting the Yacht Club to send a rowing team to compete at the Shanghai Club's Autumn regatta. Lieut. Colonel Broke, R.E., the energetic captain of the local Rowing Club, is doing his utmost to get a strong representative team to send to the north, but arrangements will not be finally settled for sometime yet. The Shanghai Regatta is held at a place called Hen-li, about forty miles from the city, and will probably take place on the 23rd and 24th October. Hongkong is asked to send a four and an eight oar team, and Canton, Yokohama and Tientsin will also be asked to compete. A prominent local oarsman, when spoken to about the invitation, said he thought it was up to Shanghai to visit Hongkong. A Hongkong team visited Shanghai in the early eighties, Kobe in 1891 and Yokohama in 1892, but none of these Rowing Clubs have paid return visits. He also thought that the secretary of the Shanghai Rowing Club should have written the V.R.C. as well as the Yacht Club, the former Club being the premier sporting association of the Colony, and including among its members some smart scullers.

AMERICAN BASEBALLERS.

TO VISIT HONGKONG.

Mr. J. Lawrence Woods, the manager of the Reach All-American Baseball Club, is now in Hongkong, and will shortly be going back to the States to bring out his famous baseball team. Mr. Woods has made arrangements for this crack team of exponents of America's national game to play matches at Yokohama, Tokyo, Kyoto, Kobe and Shanghai. In some of the cities visited cricket matches will also take place.

Arrangements, we understand, have been made with the Hongkong Cricket Club for a local team to meet the baseballers here in a cricket match about December 18th, and possibly arrangements may be made for a match against the Kowloon Cricket Club. In Manila, where a guarantee fund of 5000 Pesos has been obtained, the team will play a series of ten games of baseball.

Altogether, a party of about fifty people travel with the Reach All Club, but these are not all players, several travelling as tourists.

Among the men Mr. Woods is bringing out is "Jimmy" Britt, an ex-champion lightweight boxer, and doubtless arrangements will be made for some boxing contests at the various places of call. If a match can be arranged in Hongkong, there is little doubt that it will be well patronised, for votaries of the manly art are strong here just now.

NEW BUILDINGS ORDINANCE PROSECUTIONS.

EXCITING SCENES AT THE MAGISTRACY.

During the last few weeks 160 summonses have been served on property owners for failing to comply with notices served by the Public Works Department to effect certain repairs in houses. The prosecutions were taken under the amended Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, and Messrs. Edwards and Hutchings, inspectors of the Public Works Department, appeared to prosecute.

The first summons called on was that against Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Secretary of the Land Investment Co., and when asked by Mr. J. R. Wood to plead, he pleaded not guilty, and requested a month's adjournment.

His Worship said he would allow him one week.

Mr. Hooper said workmen were very scarce owing to the recent typhoon. He considered it a crying shame for the Public Works Department to bring the public up in such numbers as they had done, when the public were not really at fault. He considered it much more important that the damage done by the typhoon should be repaired before the paltry work required by the Public Works Department, such as the rendering of cement walls, putting iron grating in drains, etc. He could show an instance at the Supreme Court where pipes and other sanitary defects wanted attending to as long as six months ago, and had not yet been touched. Of course, the Government could not be compelled to do Government work, but it could compel the public to carry out repairs. He only brought this before the notice of the public to show that what was "sauce for the goose was sauce for the gander." He would certainly bring this matter to the notice of the Governor. Such treatment could not be tolerated.

The summons was adjourned for a month.

The summons against the Land Reclamation Company, which was represented by Mr. Mowbray Northcote, was next heard. Mr. Northcote asked for a month's adjournment and added that he had been absent from the Colony when the summons was served. He had only received the notice the previous day and he was of the opinion that the work had been done.

Mr. Edwards said the work had not been done on the occasion of his last visit.

Mr. Northcote said if the work was not done it was on account of the scarcity of workmen.

His Worship remarked that Mr. Northcote had taken no steps to have the work done.

Mr. Northcote replied that he was away when the summons was served.

His Worship—Surely there is some one to do your work when you are away?

Mr. Northcote replied that there was not.

The summons was adjourned for a month.

A few minutes later Mr. M. J. D. Stephens entered the Court and indignantly demanded to know the reason why he had been summoned there. He was not the owner of the particular house for which he was summoned although he owned four houses in Queen's Road Central. Could the Public Works Department do things like this? To bring him to the Magistracy on such a very wet day was a shame. "Now I am here," he continued, "Your Worship had better look me up in one of the cells to secure me, as I am not easily to be found." "Look me up; Look me up," proceeded Mr. Stephens, "you will then know where to find me when you have other summonses to serve upon me."

Mr. Edwards said if a mistake had been made the summons could be withdrawn.

Mr. Stephens said he would not allow the summons to be withdrawn. It must be proceeded with. He was going at once to see the Governor about the matter, and if he did not get satisfaction he would write to the Secretary of State. The summons against Mr. Stephens was struck out.

Messrs. Percy Smith and Seth were also summoned. Mr. Seth appeared and said the summons was undated and it was only by chance he learned he had to appear that morning.

The summons was withdrawn.

Mr. A. V. Apear was also summoned but the case was not proceeded with.

The other summonses were adjourned.

MOTOR CAR AND RICSHAS.

SCENE AT A FUNERAL.

A case of more than ordinary interest was heard at the Magistracy on August 24th before Mr. J. R. Wood when S. A. Marican, proprietor of the Dragon Cycle Depot, appeared to answer a charge preferred by a ricksha coolie of recklessly driving a motor car in Wong-Nai-Cheong Road on the 18th inst. and another put forward by Mr. Swart, of Messrs. Schultdt and Co., for driving in a furious manner to the danger of the public. Mr. E. J. Grist appeared for defendant, who preferred counter charges against Mr. Swart for assault and using threatening language.

The case was part heard before and the evidence taken on that occasion was read. Mr. Grist cross-examined the ricksha coolie whose vehicle was struck by the motor car. He said that he did not notice the car before it was on him. He heard the horn sounded. His ricksha was stationary at the side of the road and he was in the shafts. The people were leaving the cemetery.

And you were in the act of taking your ricksha to your fare?—No. I did not see my fare.

Mr. Grist proceeded to argue that the witness had made a different statement before, when Mr. Swart intervened—Let the witness speak for himself.

His Worship—All right, Mr. Swart.

Witness added that he wanted compensation.

Mr. Swart then gave evidence. His statements at the last hearing having been read, Mr. Grist proceeded to cross-examine him.

You had only just come out of the cemetery?

—Yes.

What then?—I heard an awful crash.

Then you did not see the accident?—Yes. I heard the whistle blowing.

How far away? I could not say.

He was blowing the whistle all the way from the Happy Retreat?—Yes.

You didn't turn round to look at him?—Yes.

You saw him go straight into the ricksha?—Yes.

He must have been right in the middle of the road?—The road is very narrow there.

There were a lot of rickshas?—Yes.

All over the road?—No. They were in a bunch.

You came out of the cemetery?—Yes.

And the rickshas came running up to you?—Yes. Some of the people had left the cemetery.

The motor pulled up as quickly as it could?—

Not until it was among the rickshas.

Then it pulled up?—It had to pull up because it was facing the wall (laughter).

When the motor was stopped it was facing the course?—Yes.

Right across the road?—She nearly turned turtle amongst the rickshas.

That was in her endeavour to pull up?—Holy Moses! Why didn't she turn up before?

His Worship—Don't argue.

The evidence of Mr. O. Wagner taken at the last hearing was read. He said he was jammed between the ricksha, the wall and the motor.

The driver did not apologise.

Mr. Swart did not call further evidence, his Worship having remarked that he had a case, if the evidence held.

Mr. Grist submitted that there was no case. The law was that if the driver took all reasonable precautions to avoid a collision no blame could attach to the driver. If the driver saw a man in the road and he sounded his horns and the man refused to get out of the way he would be responsible for any accident that happened to him as the driver had taken all reasonable precautions.

His Worship disagreed with this rendering of the law.

Mr. Grist contended that the driver had the right to go on. It was the duty of the man to get out of the way. If his Worship was up in accord with that view he would ask him to state a case. It was admitted that this man had done everything to avoid a collision—

His Worship—Except go slow.

Mr. Grist—He was going at eight miles an hour which is an extremely moderate pace for a motor car.

His Worship—Yes.

Mr. Grist pointed out that a motor car could be pulled up in three yards when travelling at a good speed. The rickshas were across the road and the driver had a right to expect that they would make room for him to pass.

His Worship said he would transfer the charge to another section of the Ordinance which applied to motor cars.

Mr. Grist said that the section only applies provided the motor was not driven in a reasonable manner.

His Worship held that driving into a funeral party was unreasonable.

Mr. Grist—That is pure sentiment. It has no legal ground.

His Worship added that it would be the same wherever there was a crowd.

Defendant gave his account of the occurrence. He said he was driving a motor car from the Happy Retreat to the golf course. It was capable of doing between 15 and 18 miles an hour, but at the time in question it was travelling about eight miles an hour. About 150 yards off he saw the crowd of rickshas at the cemetery and sounded his horn all the way up to the crowd having in the interval reduced the speed to about four and a half miles. He expected the rickshas would have cleared and left a space for him to pass. He approached at walking pace and as he could not get through he swerved to the side and struck the ricksha in the side channel. He had driven a motor car for at least three years. When he went to Singapore he went before the Captain Superintendent of Police who said he did not need a license.

By the Court—He swerved to the right in order to avoid striking the ricksha in front. When six feet off the ricksha he could have pulled up.

Why didn't you pull up?—I expected the ricksha to move out of the way.

When did you put your brakes on full?—About two yards off.

How far do you reckon your car travelled after that?—A yard and a half.

By Mr. Swart—He was not charged with a similar offence before. Last year he accidentally killed a man.

Mr. Swart—Why didn't he pull up before he was among the crowd?

Mr. Grist—He has a right to the road.

Mr. Swart—So has the ricksha coolie.

His Worship—Just so.

Mr. Swart—I am no lawyer. Pardon me if I go too far.

Mr. Grist—He has a right to expect that the crowd will get out of his way.

Mr. Swart—Damn it! He has no right. I beg pardon.

Defendant, in answer to questions put by his Worship, said he promised to give the coolie compensation.

His Worship—I think you ought to pay him. Has he refused compensation from you?

Defendant—No.

His Worship dismissed the summons for furious driving, but found the charge of driving in a negligent manner proved.

Mr. Grist—I shall ask your Worship to state a case.

His Worship—State a case here and now?

Mr. Grist—No.

His Worship—You will have to go through the usual preliminaries.

Mr. Grist—Yes.

His Worship—I shall have to impose a fine of \$5 or 14 days. Defendant will also have to pay \$2.50 compensation.

The counter charges against Mr. Swart were heard.

His Worship—Did you shake your fist at him?

Mr. Swart—Perhaps I did so after he put his dirty hands on my white clothes. I told him I would make him pay for it.

His Worship—I will enter a plea of not guilty on both charges.

S. A. Marican then stated that when he got out of his car defendant caught hold of him, swung him round, shook his fist at him, and swore at him. He called witness a blackguard, a fool, and said he was not fit to drive a motor car.

Mr. Swart—He's a liar.

Mr. Swart was cautioned.

Complainant added that he offered compensation to the ricksha coolie.

Mr. C. P. Waite, mechanical engineer, who was riding in the car, at the time of the occurrence, averred that defendant used very bad language to Mr. Marican and himself.

By the Court—The only assault committed by the defendant was in seizing Mr. Marican.

Mr. Grist—And in using threatening language. He is not charged with assault and battery.

Defendant—Is it an offence to prevent a man from running away before the police come?

His Worship—Sometimes it is.

Defendant—Then I am guilty. I wanted to keep him there until the police arrived.

Witness said that he wished to move the car into a safer position and the crowd thought he was going away.

Mr. Kapteyn, of the Holland China Trading Company, declared that Mr. Swart said if nobody was going to take the matter in hand he would. Marican wanted to go away but Mr. Swart would not let him. Witness did not hear defendant call Marican a blackguard; he might have called him a fool.

His Worship said the circumstances justified a reasonable amount of indignation. He would not impose any penalty but he would record a conviction against Mr. Swart for bad language.

The parties then left the court.

ANOTHER SNATCHING CASE.

There was some hard swearing before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Aug. 22nd when Shum Chung was charged by Inspector Robertson with snatching a gold ear pick from a Chinese woman. Complainant was proceeding along Des Vaux Road West in a ricksha when defendant ran behind the vehicle, lifted up the hood, removed the ear pick from the woman's head and ran away. His action, however, was observed by four persons, and two of them, students, pursued him. When the thief found his pursuers gaining on him he climbed under a wharf, hoping to escape detection. But the students discovered him, and assisted by a ricksha coolie, succeeded in landing him on the top of the wharf and handing him over to the police. When Inspector Robertson took the charge against him the defendant said he was a diver, but he denied having made this statement in Court. He also swore that the evidence of the four who bore witness against him was untrue, and asked permission to call a witness on his behalf. This was granted and in police custody defendant was escorted to Queen's Road. There, he pointed out the man he wanted to call, and the latter was taken up to the Court. Defendant then told His Worship that the police had brought the wrong man, and asked permission to call someone else. When a second witness was called the police were again accused of supplying the wrong man, and Inspector Robertson informed the Court that defendant was only wasting his Worship's time. His Worship sentenced the defendant to six months' imprisonment with hard labour and two whippings of twelve strokes each.

THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

It is satisfactory to learn that, in contradistinction to the feuds which have delayed work on the southern end of the Canton-Hankow Railway, peace and harmony reign over the construction preliminaries on the northern section. The work for 148 miles from Wuchang is in charge of Mr. G. Moore, Engineer-in-Chief of the Hankow Waterworks, and the ceremony of turning the first sod will be performed by Viceroy Chen Kuei-lung in October. The railway property at Wuchang is on the river and will afford excellent wharves. The problem of communication between the two sections of China's grand trunk line from Peking to Canton has not yet been solved. By no means the most unlikely solution is a tunnel under the Yangtze, which is about a mile wide at this point, but lends itself to a workable gradient.—N.-C. Daily News.

Viceroy Chu Shi-chong has applied to the Throne for permission to increase the strength of the new army of Manchuria by another 50,000 men.

THE BRITISH POST OFFICES IN NORTH CHINA.

[FROM OUR PEKING CORRESPONDENT.]

August 6th.

The Hongkong Postmaster has caused to be published in Tientsin an announcement that the British Postal Agency in this post will be closed on October 10 next. A similar announcement was made last year, but the Tientsin office was not closed then owing to the British Municipal Councils and the Chamber of Commerce coming forward with a guarantee for the amount of the deficit involved in the running of the establishment. Negotiations are now afoot with a view to renewing this arrangement but it is by no means certain that it will be renewed.

During the past twelve months the general body of British and other residents in the British Concessions of Tientsin have been taxed to the tune of \$7,500 per annum in order that the British Postal Agency here might be maintained and they contend that the chief benefits resulting from the existence of the agency are derived by heads of the commercial houses. This is to say, the community at large pays for the conveniences of a small section of itself.

Hongkong naturally declines to bear the burden of the deficit, though last year there were some in Tientsin who would not have objected to this and did not seem to see anything unnatural in a plan that would have been so economical to Tientsin. Hongkong, however, has from the first stood to its guns; it will not conduct the Tientsin agency at a loss and if Tientsin wishes the agency continued, so long as the loss in working lasts, Tientsin must make it good. The matter is left, therefore, for local adjustment. There is every hope of the agency being preserved if the shipping and mercantile part of the community will bear a larger proportion of the financial burden than they have hitherto been willing to do. But the general body of ratepayers will probably kick if it is selfishly proposed to victimise them on behalf of a specially interested section.

WEI-HAI-WEI BRITISH POST OFFICE.

There is a British Postal Agency at Wei-hai-wei, too, and there have come to my knowledge certain curious facts regarding the working of the correspondence of that post. A Tientsin resident went there for a holiday with his wife, who was an invalid. While there they had letters, papers, etc., forwarded from Tientsin. In one case a letter took no fewer than 23 days in reaching its destination, though ordinarily the time occupied should not exceed 48 hours. The postmarks on the envelope showed that the letter had been on a circular tour via Hongkong. The same gentleman left his wife at Weihaiwei and returned to Tientsin. Before he left he wrote a letter to Tientsin. This was posted two days before his own departure, but was not delivered to the addressee till two days after he had arrived in Tientsin, so that it would have been far quicker had he kept his letter in his pocket till he got to Tientsin and then sent it by ohit.

Again, while he was still at Weihaiwei, some letters from England arrived by Siberian mail at his Tientsin residence, and were forwarded to him at the Weihaiwei Hotel. When they arrived he had left for Tientsin, so his wife placed them (five in number) in one envelope, and posted them back to Tientsin. So far they have not reached the addressee, who has in the meantime received several other letters from his wife in which reference is made to these home letters duly despatched but not yet delivered. Possibly the five letters may yet turn up after visiting Hongkong, Singapore, and other ports where there are British postal agencies and offices. It is obvious, however, that, whether the fault be at Weihaiwei or elsewhere, arrangements which permit of such delayed delivery as that I have indicated—a id there are also instances of absolute non-delivery—are deplorable, and should be remedied in the interest of Britain's good name if not in the interest of those using the British post office in the Far East.

Another curious case came within my personal knowledge. A letter was delivered in Tientsin addressed to a correspondent at Oakland,

California, U.S.A. It bore the address of the sender, a foreigner in Weihaiwei, Shantung. How it ever came to be delivered in Tientsin I do not know. One would suppose that from Weihaiwei it would have been sent to one of the coast ports and thence to Shanghai to be conveyed to America. But Tientsin is clearly off the route between Shantung and California. This letter had been posted at the Chinese Post Office, so that the bungling is not confined to the British Post Office.

August 10.

THE TIENTSIN BRITISH POST OFFICE.

I have just obtained the latest intelligence with regard to the proposed closing of the British Postal Agency in Tientsin. It had been anticipated that fresh and satisfactory arrangements would be made for making good the deficit as required by the Hongkong Postmaster-General. I now learn that, though prolonged negotiations have taken place with this in view, the attempt to obtain a fresh subsidy locally has been unsuccessful. As I have previously mentioned, last year's decision of the two British Municipal Councils to contribute a sum of \$7,500 out of the rates evoked much unfavourable comment, and the Municipal fathers, much as they like cut-and-dried schemes, and little as they consult the general body of ratepayers and electors, have this year hesitated to repeat their financial undertaking of last year. When therefore, their guarantee of the deficit expires, on Oct. 10 next, the British Post Office in Tientsin will be finally closed, and Tientsin will lose the advantages of the British penny post and will have to revert to the old 2d. rate. This will result in the advantage of the Imperial Post Office.

It is to be noted that the French and German Communities in Tientsin manage to maintain their own national post offices without the slightest hint being made of any proposal for their discontinuance. At the moment I cannot say whether either of them is run at a loss, though I should think it probable in both cases, since both the French and German Communities in Tientsin are smaller than the British. But whether this be actually the case or not, for patriotic reasons they are kept up without murmur or protest of any kind.

It may interest Hongkong readers and others residing on the old mail route to know that it is the heavy losses by the transit of letters over the Siberian Railway and by other routes that have caused the Tientsin Office to be closed.

NOTES FROM THE NORTH.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, August 6.

H. E. YUAN SHIH KAI.

When last year H. E. Yuan Shih Kai was transferred from the Viceroyalty of Chihli to Peking, there to become a Grand Councillor and President of the Waiwupu, he did not disguise his personal unwillingness to leave Tientsin for the capital. It was promotion in dignity only; in other respects it was an Irishman's rise. "An enemy hath—done this thing," he might well have said: except that the singular number would not have been correct—'mine enemies have done it' would have hit the mark.

For months H. E. Yuan tried to get sent back to Tientsin, but in vain. He himself (and all his many friends in Tientsin) hoped that ultimately he would be permitted to return. But it was not to be. Last week an Imperial Edict was issued appointing H. E. Yang (formerly Governor of Shantung)—who succeeded H. E. Yuan as Acting Viceroy of Chihli—to be substantive or permanent Viceroy, so that it may be taken for granted that Tientsin will not get back its old Viceroy, who is now permanently involved in the political intrigues of the capital.

A DIFFICULT TASK.

H. E. Yuan has naturally many ardent admirers among the foreign residents in the North and now that he seems to be intended to spend the rest of his official career in Peking, they all hope to see him fulfil the expectations formed of him since he came to the front as China's strongest statesman. It must be confessed, however, that some of his strongest friends regard his position with some misgiving. His task as

head of the Waiwupu is like a double-edged sword. He has to settle a number of disputes with Japan, in all of which, impartially speaking, Japan appears to have the stronger case, so that China is likely to come off second-best; and he has also to face the criticism (and possibly the enmity) of the Rights Recovery party in the capital and in the provinces. In other words do what he will, he can hardly please his critics, placate his enemies, or become a popular Minister.

THE CHIENTAO QUESTION.

I have already shown at some length that the Japanese position regarding the Fakumen Railway question is practically invulnerable. Another great question in dispute is similar: I refer to the matter of Chientao. This question has two distinct phases. There is the boundary question. With regard to this China admits that only a part of the boundary in the upper valley of the Tumen River is undetermined; but Korea argues that a larger area on the left of the river is still in dispute. The controversy in respect to this matter is a very old one, dating back more than 150 years. On May 10th last Japan sent to China a long despatch on the subject. In this was set forth the basis on which the Korean contention rests. The Chinese reply was not made till the first week in July, and at the present rate of progress a settlement is still a long way off. Japan sent a rejoinder to Peking on receipt of China's reply but this phase of the Chientao question will not soon be disposed of, for it requires thorough investigation, full discussion, and careful weighing of both sides of the case. The Japanese attitude is extremely reasonable; there has been no attempt to force upon China any part of the Korean case regardless of its merits.

The second phase of the Chientao question is in relation to the jurisdiction over the Koreans residing in the disputed territory. These in number far surpass the Chinese immigrants into the district. The Japanese Foreign Office is more positive and emphatic regarding this phase of the question. Japan is confident that in any case the Korean population should be under Korean (i.e., under present conditions, Japanese) jurisdiction, and not under that of China. In view of the treaty stipulations between China and Korea which put the nationals of the latter always under the jurisdiction of their own authorities, Japan holds that the contention of the Chinese Government in this regard is untenable; and although China has not yet replied to the Japanese despatch sent some months ago on this phase of the question, it is confidently anticipated that the logic of facts will ultimately compel China to fall in with the Japanese view of the case.

PEKING, August 8th.

HOLIDAY CALAMITIES.

People here have now returned to their normal routine after the August Bank Holidays. These extended from the 1st to the 4th, both inclusive, and were marked by unwonted and regrettable incidents.

To begin with, Peking and Tientsin and the surrounding districts have been visited by a heat wave the like of which has not been known for at least ten years. Seasoned veterans in the Far East who have spent years of residence in Shanghai, Hongkong, Canton, Singapore, Penang, Java, and North Borneo and other parts of the Eastern Archipelago have broken down under the heat in Tientsin, which they declare to have been worse to endure than any they ever experienced elsewhere. The feature of the weather has been the long continuance of extraordinarily high temperatures and humid atmosphere. In former years the thermometer has on sporadic days risen above 100 degs. F., but the proverbial oldest inhabitant has to cast back his recollections for many years to recall a similar spell of hot weather so long continued. The second half of July and the month of August up to date have this year been a perfect Hades here. Even those who took refuge at the various coast resorts did not escape. At Peitaiho, Shanhaikwan, Chinwangtao, and Taku the temperature exceeded the normal, and people who had gone for the holiday week end for coolness returned saying their errand had been a fiasco.

FORMER HONGKONG RESIDENT.

The holidays of all Tientsin people were saddened by the news of the death in the Hospital there of Mr. Lee, architect, a member of the firm of Messrs Loup and Lee. Mr. Lee was one of the nicest men to be met in the course of a day's march, and was a universal favourite. Before coming to Tientsin he lived and practised some years in Hongkong, to which Colony he came out from England. At home he received his professional training in Rochester. He was only 31 years of age, and thus prematurely a bright and useful life was cut off. Mr. Lee contracted typhoid fever, and then developed pneumonia. Had he been a married man he might have been nursed at home, but being a bachelor he went to the hospital and there is general regret that he was not able to weather the crisis.

ATTACK ON THE RUSSIAN CONSUL.

Even more shocking because more sudden and unexpected was the dastardly attempt on the life of Mr. Poppe, the popular Russian Consul in Tientsin. Mr. Poppe had been entertaining friends on the last day of the holidays. He is a most sociable and amiable man, and like many of his countrymen a capable musician. He went to bed in the usual way after dinner, and was in his first sleep—being apparently one of the few men able to sleep these hot nights—when, about half-past one in the morning, he was rudely awakened, by being stabbed or, rather, ripped up.

Mr. Poppe's predecessor at the Consulate, Mr. Laptew, was shot in the same building just two years ago, and died of his wound, which pierced the diaphragm and brought on peritonitis. Since then both Cossacks and police have guarded the premises of the Consulate night and day. On the night of the attempt on Mr. Poppe's life not only were the continued guards on duty but all doors and windows were fastened at the front. There was thus no way of access to the Consul's bedroom, which is on the ground floor, except by the back of the house through the door used by the Chinese servants and a narrow corridor. The fact that Mr. Poppe's assailant found his way to his victim and made good his escape without leaving a single trace or clue argues that the deed was done by some one familiar with the building and the habits of the inmates.

Whoever he was, he used a long sharp knife with terrific force. The weapon struck Mr. Poppe in the right breast and tore up a gaping (which lay open for a width of six inches) extending to the base of the abdomen. Fortunately it encountered the ribs, three of which were clean cut through, or it might have penetrated to the back bone and caused fatal injuries. As it was, it did damage sufficiently terrible. The liver was cut into to a depth of two inches and for a distance of four inches, and the diaphragm was cut through, giving danger of peritonitis. Notwithstanding his injuries, Mr. Poppe was able to go to the window, open it, and shout for assistance. Skilled surgeons were quickly in attendance, and the Consul was sewn up and is now out of danger. But the mystery as to his assailant has not been cleared up, though it is suspected that he was a Chinese. Mr. Poppe had trouble with his servants, some of whom he had discharged, and it is thought that one of these committed the crime out of revenge. But the native and foreign police of Tientsin have not been able to discover who the individual was.

PEKING CALAMITY.

The tale of disasters is not yet told. On Sunday night there was a fire in the barracks of the German Legation in Peking, and this spread to buildings in which emergency arms and ammunition, including shells and grenades, were kept, with the deplorable result that five soldiers (four German and one French) were killed and some fifteen (Germans and French) more or less seriously injured. The troops of all the Legation Guards turned out to combat the flames, but it so happened that only the Germans and the French got in the way of the exploding shells. The operations for the extinction of the fire were conducted under the superintendence of the German officer in command, and he has, come in for not a little criticism on the part of his fellow countrymen and other foreigners for having permitted soldiers of all nationalities, his own included, to be working so near to the

explosives after warning of the danger had been given by the reports of cartridges ignited by the flames. But the European criticism has not been so severe as that of the Chinese. A sample of this was afforded by the Peking journal, "Chinese Public Opinion," which gave a long article the moral of which was that the foreign Legations in the capital, and especially that of Germany, who prides herself as being the first military and most scientific nation in the world, are supposed to be models to the Chinese in everything; but the barracks disaster is held to prove that the foreigner is no better than the Chinese. It is pointed out that if the foreigner were superior the fire should never have broken out at all, and that, if it had, the arrangements of the foreigner for suppressing it should have been better than they were. The fact of the emergency magazines catching fire and their contents exploding with disastrous and fatal results to those engaged in putting out the flames is cited triumphantly as a convincing proof of the foreigner's lack of superiority. This piece of criticism is only one sample of the recent recovery by the Chinese in the capital of their ancient supercilious disdain of the foreigner. In different ways this feeling is continually manifesting itself nowadays.

ANTI-JAPANESE PREJUDICE.

One of the most remarkable features of Chinese policy is the change which has taken place during the past three years with regard to Japan. During and after the war Japan was supreme in the Councils of China. The Japanese Minister, Mr. Uchida, was more influential and more listened to than any or all the other diplomatic representatives in the capital. And throughout the provinces Japanese influences were paramount. Now any stick is good enough to beat the Japanese dog with. There has been a complete reaction, and much injustice is done to Japan.

AN EXAMPLE.

This occurs not only in official circles but in the ordinary walks of life. I may cite the following instance—a paragraph from "Chinese Public Opinion":—

"JAPANESE THEFT AND VANDALISM.—A few days ago some Japanese went to a certain Temple in the Western Hills and proceeded to remove a monument and a large bronze image. When protests were raised by the Temple keepers they asserted that they were removing the objects by order of the Japanese Minister. This the people of the district did not believe, so they promptly sent to the Peking Police authorities, and some mounted soldiers were immediately despatched to the scene. The officials arrived at the Temple just as the Japanese had succeeded in packing their booty into a cart, and immediately arrested them. They were brought into Peking and have since been handed over to the Japanese Legation for punishment. We await with interest the verdict, and trust that the punishment will be adequate for the act, which is not only one of theft but also of vandalism."

Now here are allegations clearly calculated to create in the minds of Chinese and foreigners a feeling prejudicial to the Japanese.

A subsequent issue of "Chinese Public Opinion," however, contains the following:—

"OFFICIAL CONTRADICTION.—We have received from the Central Police station a notification to the effect that the Japanese Legation denies that the story of the Japanese subject attempting to steal a monument and bronze image from a Temple in the Western Hills has any foundation in fact."

This, I may say, is only one of many baseless stories circulated with a view to the depreciation of Japan and the Japanese.

Owing to the recent great fire in the German Legation and for the prevention of similar disasters in future, the Waiwupu has sent a circular communication to the various foreign Ministers in the Capital requesting that they remove all the arms and munitions of war which are now stored in their respective Legations to some empty places outside the outer city of Peking with a view to the safety of both foreigners and Chinese. It is stated that a meeting of the foreign Ministers and the Ministers of the Waiwupu will be held in the Chinese Foreign Office shortly to discuss this important matter.

SEQUEL TO THE CANTON FLOOD FUND BAZAAR.

Our Canton correspondent sends us the following translation of a letter sent to the Bazaar Committee:—

"Our Kwong Tung Province has been very unfortunate. The recent disastrous flood has afflicted us with great sorrow. The members of the Bazaar Committee voluntarily got up their Bazaar on behalf of the distressed people. Many people sent valuable presents to the Bazaar; others offered their services to conduct it, and numerous people patronized it. All the people were animated with one good feeling to raise funds for the relief of the sufferers and thus an important sum of over \$100,000 was raised, and the distressed people will receive the benefit of this huge fund. The success of the Bazaar has earned the praise of both Chinese and Foreigners. The Bazaar was carried on for eight days, and on the day when it was closed there still remained unsold articles piled up mountains high. The books of the different departments which contained entries of the articles presented were all in perfect order. This proves the good discipline in the management of affairs by the Cantonese people and they really deserve to be respected by the public.

On the day of the closing of the Bazaar it was estimated that the value of the unsold articles was over \$100,000, and even your respectable Chief Superintendent of Affairs, Mr. Mok Yam Hang, informed many persons that they were worth at least \$70,000 to \$80,000. You have now sold these articles by auction and it took you four days to complete the sale.

It is now reported that the proceeds amount to less than \$10,000. We desire to know the actual amount realized at the auctions. In the report of your accounts during the last few days you only gave the total cash collected (daily, including proceeds of sale by auction and previous outstanding debts. The fact of your mixing those two accounts makes it incomprehensible to the public, and consequently many unpleasant things have been said about the matter. The Committee does not seem to realize the value of the articles sent to the Bazaar. Every cent helps to relieve the sufferers to some extent. There appears to have been a great difference in the original valuation of the articles and the prices at which they were sold at the auction.

Were there no means of disposing of the unsold articles other than putting them up for auction so as to obtain at least their cost price? Or was it on account of unavoidable circumstances which compelled you to get rid of these articles in a few days?

Probably you conceived the idea that in selling them by auction the distressed people will not be able to ascertain the prices they were sold for, and also that you thought the supporters of the Bazaar will not care to take the trouble to investigate into the matter; therefore you rushed the sale through carelessly.

Our humble Press desires to explain this matter clearly to the general public. But we regret we were unable to do so, as we are in the dark and do not know the real position of affairs, nor the internal working of the Bazaar. We intended to let the matter pass without saying anything, but have been unable to endure it any longer, because we feel as if there is a piece of fish bone stuck in our throats, and we cannot be comfortable unless it is extracted. Our humble Press have all along regarded the members of the Bazaar Committee as men of integrity whom the people could rely upon to carry out any important public undertaking with sincere hearts.

We do not say for a moment that you have taken advantage of the Bazaar to benefit your private purses. But as matters now stand, if a proper and clear explanation is not given, we are afraid that the public will not be satisfied and will lose confidence in the charitable societies, and the distressed people may have reason to suspect that they have been deceived.

We trust that your respectable Committee will not fail to furnish us with the true facts in connection with the auctions, stating clearly the names of the auctioneers, superintendents of the auctions, purchasers and the prices paid by them for each article and also the exact

amount realized on each day, so that our humble press may publish it for you free of charge and thus satisfy the minds of the people and prevent further idle talk. By so doing the public will not only remember the good services rendered by you, but will be extremely grateful to you.

If you do not comply with our request we fear that there will be severe criticism of your conduct which will ruin your reputation for ever. Do not be stubborn; if you are you will find it too late to retract and the Charity Union of the Cantonese people will henceforth be broken and destroyed for ever as a revival will be almost impossible.

[The letter bears the signatures of six Canton newspapers.]

THE BOYCOTT AGAINST JAPANESE AT CANTON.

PENALTIES FOR BREAKING THE COMPACT.

Our Canton correspondent, writing on the 22nd instant, says:—

The Boycott of Japanese goods has hitherto been carried on most secretly by the different classes of merchants here. It appears to be well organized and the measures adopted are far more stringent than those taken against the Americans as very severe fines are known to have been imposed on those who have broken the regulations of the Boycott Union. Meetings are held with great privacy. Reports of meetings have been occasionally published but they appear in the form of encouraging the protection of native commerce and industry and nothing is mentioned in the direct sense of boycott.

On the 20th instant the members of the Canton Sea Delicacies Guild called a general meeting for the purpose of passing a resolution to urge the other guilds to be more vigilant and sincere in enforcing the boycott regulations as it has been brought to the notice of the guild that some merchants of the other guilds have been dealing openly in foreign goods (Japanese). The resolution was put by the Chairman and passed. Notice to the above effect was on the same day sent round to all the other guilds.

One of the merchants of the Sea Delicacies Guild who was recently heavily fined by the Guild for dealing in foreign merchandise immediately stood up and in reply to the Chairman's remarks said, "I do not see why merchants of other guilds who deal in foreign goods are permitted to break the rules and are not punished, while my humble shop which happened to sell only a small quantity of foreign goods was fined several hundreds of dollars. I demand that the fine you imposed on me be immediately returned to me.

The Chairman replied:—You know that we have taken these measures of retaliation on behalf of the whole country of China, and if we do not punish those who break the rules in our own guild how can you expect us to put pressure on the other guilds? If you could prove to us that any merchant is dealing clandestinely in foreign merchandise, no matter what guild that merchant may belong to, we will see that he is punished according to the regulations. As regards the return of your fine, we will do nothing of the sort.

Mr. Yuan Heung Po in supporting what the Chairman said, added that those who deal clandestinely in foreign articles not only deserved monetary punishment but even the punishment of death was inadequate to the crime.

Mr. Cheong To Sang then said:—It is not necessary for me to repeat the original cause (the "Tatsu Maru" affair) which prompted this public resentment, as you are all aware of it. China is like a broken bird's nest, and one would be very unlikely to find a good egg in such a nest. If we do not hold firm from beginning to end we shall receive insults much more disgraceful from other (foreign) countries. If we do not devise means to save the situation of the present generation we ought to take steps to protect our sons and grandsons from receiving such treatment from the hands of foreigners.

On the following day the Piece Goods Guild immediately took steps to make stringent inquiries as to whether any of the merchants of their guild were dealing in foreign goods. The result was that they discovered three shops who

were handling Japanese piece goods. They seized and confiscated over 250 cases and fined the delinquents very heavily.

RIVER STEAMER'S UNDISCIPLINED CREW.

On the 8th instant a letter written from Canton appeared in the *Daily Press* over the signature of "Truth" containing the following statements:—

"It is an open secret among the Chinese here that on the night of the last typhoon the Chinese crew of a river steamer owned by a Chinese company were so greatly terrified, so much maddened by fear of the approaching danger, that they broke open first class saloon cabin doors to get at life belts. They terrorized the Chinese gentlemen in the cabins, and snatched their life belts from their persons by force. Fortunately the steamer weathered the storm, and thus the matter ended. Subsequently these saloon passengers complained to their friends on shore, and when asked why they did not bring the matter to the notice of the authorities, they explained that they were too thankful to have escaped with their lives, and so great was their joy over deliverance from death that they could afford to forgive the wretches."

The Government took notice of the letter and we were informed that if a prosecutor could be found the Harbour Master would deal with the matter under Section 9 (5) (g) of Ordinance 10 of 1899, but the writer of the letter has failed to induce either of the Chinese gentlemen known to him to prosecute. That being the case we can only make public the willingness of the Harbour Master to deal with the charge if it is properly brought before him, and trust that this information may reach some of the people concerned who will have sufficient public spirit to make the necessary sacrifice of time and money involved in coming from Canton to Hongkong to prosecute.

The writer of the letter of the 8th inst., suggests that in the event of the Chinese passengers failing to come forward to prosecute, the Harbour Master might find some means of procuring evidence from the officers of the ship—and especially from the stewards—sufficient to enable him to teach Chinese crews that such dastardly conduct cannot be tolerated on ships under the British flag.

We understand that Taotai Lai Kwai Lin was one of the passengers referred to, and that in response to his calls for help the chief steward, who recognised him as a wealthy official and also a friend of the owner of the ship, came to his assistance and persuaded the crew to desist in their efforts to deprive him of his life belt.

ACTION AGAINST A CANTON FIRM.

In the Danish Court at Shanghai, on the 19th inst., His Honour the Consular Judge gave judgment in the case of Hop Shing v. Carl W. Smith and Company in the following terms:—

In this case Leung Shin-shin, a British subject and owner of the firm of Hop Shing in Canton, sues Carl Waldemar Smith a Danish subject trading or hitherto trading under the style of Carl W. Smith and Co., also at Canton, for an amount of Mexican \$1370.63, with interest at seven per cent. per annum from date of filing petition until payment, being the price of 450 bales of split bamboos delivered by plaintiff to defendant under a contract dated November 28, 1906, for 700 bales in all.

The defendant denies liability for this or any amount and raises a counterclaim for Mexican \$10,000, or such amount as the Court may decide, on account of damages suffered in consequence of a boycott against his firm alleged to have been instigated by the plaintiff. Defendant further states that he is not bound by the contract because it was entered into in his absence and signed by one only of two co-managers whom he had put in charge of his business during his absence. He admits that he had sometimes recognized contracts signed in the same manner, but in this case a most important clause in the printed contract had been struck out, viz., "The sellers are responsible for any claim which may arise on account of quality," which was an alteration in the usual

conditions and the local custom of such importance that both co-managers' signatures were required to make it binding.

According to the evidence, it must be considered local custom in Canton that claims on account of quality are decided by expert evidence at the place of destination, unless otherwise decided. Defendant, however, has admitted that he has made payment on account under the contract without any reservation, and by doing this he must be considered as having acknowledged the contract as it stood and cannot now claim not to be bound by it. It is not shown that any claim on account of quality has been made by the buyers.

In reference to the counterclaim, no evidence has been produced and judgment will therefore be given for the plaintiff with costs.

Within three days after receiving notice of this judgment, defendant shall pay to plaintiff Mexican \$1,370.63, with interest at seven per cent per annum from April 16, 1908, until date of payment, and also the costs of this case, with \$100, or suffer the consequences of the law.

NATIVE OPIUM.

CHINA'S EFFORTS TO CHECK CULTIVATION.

Viceroy Tuan Fang and Governor Cheng Chi-lai, the Peking correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, states, have jointly reported to the Empress Dowager about the prohibition of the growth of native opium in Huachoufu, Huai'anfu and some other districts where the native drug is produced in large quantities every year. The memorialists announce that, as nearly two years have now elapsed since the issue of the anti-opium Edicts, and as nothing has been actually done, with the exception of the closure of the opium dens in Chinese territory, to show that the Chinese Government is really in earnest, they have issued stringent orders to the various magistrates throughout the Province of Kiangsu commanding them to prohibit the planting of any kind of native opium within their respective districts from the latter part of this year. In its place the fields are to grow corn, wheat or other cereals. All farmers have been instructed to destroy their opium seeds. If they have already planted seeds, they must dig them out of the ground and substitute for them corn or other cereals, otherwise they will be arrested and punished and their fields will be confiscated to the Government without the slightest mercy.

According to a memorial from Viceroy Chang Jen-chun, at Canton, similar stringent measures have been taken to restrict the cultivation of poppy in the Liangkuang Provinces, which produces the best native opium in China, commonly called Kuangsu or Canton opium.

Recently Viceroy Hsi Liang reported that the suppression of opium growing in Yunnan Province was proceeding apace, and added that this fact might be quoted to foreign countries interested in the opium trade as an indication that the Central Government in Peking has the co-operation of all the Provincial Governments in this important reform.

The action of these three Viceroys in suppressing the growth of native opium within their jurisdictions has met with the approval of the Peking Government, and instructions have been issued to the other Viceroys and Governors throughout the Empire advising them to exert themselves in following the good example set them by their colleagues in Kiangsu, Kuangtung and Yunnan. By such means opium will be suppressed before the expiry of the ten years fixed by the first anti-opium edict of September 1906.

In the Japanese Department of Finance the Tariff Revision Investigation Committee is now much occupied in drafting the new Customs tariff which is to be revised in 1911. The *Yomiuri* has a paragraph stating that, according to a member of the committee, the Treasury has no intention of raising the tariff rates in any remarkable degree. In fact, the new tariff rates will be fixed on the basis of the tariff which was put in force in October, 1906, and which was compiled in anticipation of the forthcoming revision of the tariff in 1911. There will, therefore, be no remarkable change between the new tariff and that in force.

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

CHINESE CRITICISM OF MR. CLEMENTI'S STATISTICS.

Discussing the Opium Question, *Chinese Public Opinion*, a paper published in English at Peking, says:—

In Hongkong we have a battalion of champions of the drug and yet curiously enough almost all of them obviously demonstrate that the opposition to its abolition is not because they think its use in any way beneficial to the users, but is based on the loss which will accrue to the Colony's revenues through the loss of so remunerative a trade as that which has been forced upon and fostered among the Chinese by British Governments and traders.

Among the Hongkong champions of Opium, however, Mr. Clementi, juggling with figures, stands out prominent. There is, however, no need to be afraid of his statistics for though we do not question the accuracy of his figures we most distinctly disagree with conclusions which are intended to be drawn therefrom.

Taking Mr. Clementi's figures as being correct, we find that 397,425 piculs or 607,192,000 Taels of crude opium are consumed each year in China. The loss in preparation is 50 per cent, therefore 303,596,000 Taels of prepared opium are consumed each year. This gives a daily consumption of 831,768 Taels prepared opium, which at an allowance of Tls 0.2 per diem gives a total of 4,158,842 daily smokers; confirmed in the habit.

Mr. Clementi is generous. He allows just twice this number, as he does not estimate on the reduced quantity of prepared as against crude opium. He then takes the estimated population of China at 400,000,000 and thus discovers that approximately only two per cent of the population are confirmed opium smokers.

With this we are quite prepared to agree, but it is pertinent to enquire of what does this population of 400,000,000 consist. To anyone who knows his China it is not hard to believe that the children under 15 years of age number something like 5 to 1 of the adult population. It is absurd to include any of these in the percentage of a nation's drunkards or opium fiends.

To assure, however, a wide enough margin the children can be reckoned as proportioned as 3 to 1 of the adults and their inclusion in the consideration of the question being unreasonable we have only to deal with the remaining adult population of 100,000,000. From this again, under the circumstances prevailing, the females can be practically eliminated as it is a demonstrable fact that the proportion of women smokers is insignificant. The women of China considerably outnumber the men, but in order to compensate for possible female smokers we can consider them as equally proportioned and shall accordingly have to deal only with 50,000,000 adult males. Taking it as a supposition that all smokers are consumers of Tls 0.2 per day this will give us a percentage of 8.317 per cent of the male population over 15 years of age as confirmed opium smokers. It is to be remarked that the age limit given above is absurdly low.

Now it is an obvious fact that the confirmed smokers, like the confirmed drunkards of Western lands, are in a distinct minority. We should be making a generous margin if we allowed that 5 per cent of the smokers in China could be put into this category. We should find that consumers of Tls 0.2 of opium daily would consume 168,355 Taels daily leaving 62,943 Taels for consumption by more moderate smokers. Suppose for the sake of argument these are averaged at half the amount daily or Taels 0.1 we shall obtain a total of smokers of both classes of some seven and a half millions of opium smokers.

This will give a proportion of 15 per cent of the male population over 15 years of age. If this argument is carried to a rational conclusion and the proportion of breadwinners and fathers of families only be taken it will be found that the number of persons addicted to the opium habit, who are really only pertinent to such an enquiry, will form an infinitely greater percentage than can be shown by any European country in the case of alcohol.

JAPAN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

THE VALUE OF GOOD RELATIONS.

TOKYO, August 14.

The papers voice the greatest satisfaction over the conciliatory attitude of Russia in connection with the "Miye Maru" affair, and accept this as one good result of the present cordial relations between Russia and Japan. The facts of the case are remarkable and one can easily understand such an incident leading to very serious trouble. The "Miye Maru," a deep sea fishing vessel, was overhauled by a Russian patrol boat off the Siberia's littoral. The Russians maintained that the Japanese were out of bounds, and, if not actually poaching, either had been or would be engaged in that work. They then appear to have treated the Japanese without any consideration, disposed of the stores and cargo in the vessel, seized the ship and placed the crew under arrest. Subsequently a number of the crew were marched under guard to the prison at Nicolaevsk, and it was on this journey that the most serious part of the affair took place. The whole district of Nicolaevsk is under martial law, and offences which would be considered minor in a well governed country are treated more seriously in this military governed district. One of the Japanese prisoners was caught walking on the sidewalk, the roads being very bad, but this privilege not being permitted prisoners, he seems to have been roughly treated by the guard. This provoked an onlooker, also a Japanese, but whether a prisoner or not, is uncertain, to throw a stone at the commander of the guard, which injured the guard on the head. For this offence six of the prisoners were tried by court-martial and in the summary manner of those courts, sentenced to death. Japan at once protested and the question was quickly brought forward at St. Petersburg, with the probable result that everything will be settled amicably. The whole progress of this affair seems to show the desire on both sides to avoid trouble, but this is, unfortunately, not always the case in disputes between nations. Perchance the Russians had some provocation which has not yet appeared in print, but even so, it would but further emphasise the value of good relations, while the attitude of both St. Petersburg and Tokyo shows a desire to settle an unpleasant matter quickly.

GENERAL FUKUSHIMA IN CHINA.

Lieutenant-General Fukushima, who in this country has had charge of the training of Chinese military students, has just returned from a visit to China, where he has spent several weeks in a lengthy tour. The general refused to "talk" on military matters to a press representative, but he related an interesting experience which, he hopes, will be digested by the students in this country. While at a point somewhere between Peking and Hankow on the railway the General was delayed by an interruption on the line caused by floods. At this small out-of-the-way station he was surprised at being accosted by some young men of his own nationality, who were students at Shanghai. It was the example of patriotism and determination that these students show that the General would impress upon the stay-at-homes. It appears that the young men are at school in Shanghai with the object of getting a commercial training that will fit them for a business life in China. Instead of spending the summer vacation in slothful ease at home, they dressed themselves out as natives of the Middle Kingdom and so went abroad in the interior, studying the people and the products of different districts.

THE SUMMER RAINS.

After the wet season we invariably get it wet here. What is officially considered as the wet season is not generally remarkable for a heavy rainfall, but you can rely upon it in August, especially if you are out for a holiday. It has now been raining with more or less severity for a week past. A walk through the country reveals acre upon acre of ruined vegetables, but unless the rainfall is exceptionally severe, leading to extensive floods, as last year, the rice does not suffer much. Talking about rain reminds one of Dr. Kock, who seems to have

had by no means a pleasant stay in this country. At Nikko he and Mrs. Kock had to hurry back to the refuge of the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, because the weather conditions in the famous resort were more Arctic than congenial to persons born in the temperate zone. Visitors to Japan will generally be disappointed at this season, for the weather is unsettled. By far the best time of the year for a trip is in the spring and autumn, say the months of March, April, and May and October, November, and December.

POPULARISING FUJI.

It is likely that ten years hence thousands will be going up Mount Fuji where scores do the journey to-day. There are all sorts of schemes in the air for making the mountain attractive to tourists as distinguished from those who delight in ascending the mountain in the good old way, accepting the little hardships of the tramp as part of the pleasure that gives zest to the experience. The most important scheme is the electric railway idea, but whether this could be made to pay is a moot question. The mountain is only open about six weeks of the year, and even if the line was most busily occupied at this period it would give very little return in the capital invested. But if it were state-owned such a line would confer a great benefit, financially on the surrounding districts. Then there is the question of hotel accommodation at the base and on the mountain slopes. Here a lot can be done if the authorities desire to make things easy for the mountaineers. This year the innovations on the summit include a post office, telephone and telegraph, with roomy hotel accommodation at the eighth station, about 10,000 feet up. Latest reports from the mountain show that lots of the climbers, including foreigners, were caught in a rain storm, when the wind howled as it can only do on the slopes of the grand mountain. These storms come suddenly, and what would happen in such an event to an electric car full of cheap trippers can be left to the imagination!

"REVOLUTION IN SOUTH CHINA."

OBSERVATIONS BY A REVOLUTIONARY LEADER.

The following is a resumé of the utterances made by Huang, now in Tokyo, one of the ringleaders of the Chinese revolutionists in South China, to a representative of the *Mainichi Dempo*, which throw some light upon the strength and plan of the revolutionists, says the *Japan Gazette*:-

UPRISING IN YUNNAN.

The revolutionists originally intended to start an uprising in Kwangtung and Kwangsi provinces, but were prevented from doing so on account of unavoidable circumstances. An uprising was therefore started in Yunnan province, as already reported by newspapers. It is the earnest intentions of the revolutionists to occupy Kwangtung and Kwangsi provinces with a view to making the two provinces the basis of their operations in the future.

FAILURE IN UPRISING.

On April 19th this year the revolutionists successfully occupied the various strategical points in Yunnan province, but were finally defeated by the Government troops. There were three reasons for the failure on the part of the revolutionists. First: The fact that the French authorities prohibited the supply of cereals to the revolutionists from Annam, so that the revolutionists experienced great difficulty in procuring provisions. Secondly: The stock of arms and ammunition was scarce. Thirdly: The Commander of the revolutionists, whose number was counted at about 5,000 lacked knowledge of tactics in that he divided his whole into four weak sections.

FUTURE OPERATIONS.

In starting a revolution in South China there is an advantage on account of the great distance from the Central Government, but the leading members of the revolutionists are under the impression that there is a drawback in point of attaining the object in view. They are therefore determined to encroach upon North China and to stir up the mind of the people in favour of the revolution in the future.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The half-yearly general meeting of shareholders in the above corporation was held on Aug. 22nd, at the City Hall. Mr. E. Shellim presided and the others present were Hon. Mr. H. W. Slade, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. E. G. Barrett, G. C. B. Broderson, G. Friesland, C. S. Gubbay, W. Helms, E. Shewan, H. E. Tomkins (directors), J. R. M. Smith (general manager), J. C. Peter (sub-manager), Hon. Mr. Murray Stewart, Messrs. J. F. Cox-Edwards, R. R. Hynd, C. E. Anton, W. Dunbar, C. Pemberton, J. W. C. Bonnar, E. S. Kadoorie, J. M. E. Machado, Wong Leung Him, A. F. Warrack, W. H. Potts, Dr. J. H. Sanders, Ellis Kadoorie, E. F. Mackay, A. V. Apcar, Ho Fook, Lo Cheung Shiu, A. C. Hynes, F. H. Thomas, C. A. Bosa, H. N. Mody, H. Percy Smith, W. E. Clarke, Lam Pun Chui, J. Barton, E. H. Hinds, E. H. Ray, and H. Humphreys.

The notice convening the meeting, having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, I need hardly say that it gives the Directors great pleasure to present the 86th ordinary half-yearly report which I have just read. The statement of assets and liabilities now before you exhibits an active and increasing business and the profit and loss account shows that we have had a satisfactory half year. I think I may count, with confidence, upon your approval of the proposed distribution, viz:—

- a dividend of £2 per share to be paid;
- \$5 lacs to be added to the Silver Reserve Fund;
- \$2½ lacs to be written off Bank Premises account;
- the balance of about \$20 lacs to be carried forward to the next half-year, or practically the amount brought in from the previous one.

In inviting you to compare the statement of assets and liabilities with that of the 31st December last I have the satisfaction of being able to point to a growth in the figures under nearly every heading. On the one side we see the large increase of \$300 lacs in current accounts and fixed deposits, gold and silver together, and this addition to our operative funds is represented on the other side of the account by a like increase in the total of bills receivable, bills discounted, loans and credits, cash and bullion in hand and transit. The total assets of the Bank now amount to the large sum of 333 millions of dollars. The high price of money in Europe referred to at the last meeting by my predecessor in the chair is now a thing of the past and it has been succeeded by a period of financial ease and an accumulation of funds awaiting employment; this is accounted for to some extent by less money being required to finance our trade owing to the fall that has taken place in the price of most products, but is mainly due to a shrinkage of trade throughout the world. It therefore suited the Bank, towards the end of the half year under review, to hold our bills in London until maturity instead of re-discounting them, and you will observe that the amount of bills re-discounted outstanding is considerably less than the figures shown in previous reports. Outstanding exchange purchases at the end of last half-year were based on the then high rates for money ruling in Europe and our accounts benefited accordingly by the heavy fall in the rate of home discounts. Money is also abundant in the chief business centres in China, more especially in Shanghai where the stock of specie is abnormally large. In Japan the Japanese Banks have for some time past adopted a conservative policy with regard to their advances and money there continues to command high rates. Several of the large manufacturing companies in that country have, however, lately been able to borrow money in Europe and America and this financial help to Japan's productive enterprise cannot fail to have beneficial effects not only on the trade but also on the general finances of the country. India is still suffering from the effects of bad crops and low prices, but nevertheless a considerable amount of Bar Silver was imported by the

Bazaar during the half-year. These conditions brought about a very weak exchange market, and to prevent any heavy fall in rates the Indian Government decided to offer weekly for sale at 1s. 3½d per Rupee their Sterling demand drafts on London. Latest advices record a favourable monsoon over the greater part of the country and I trust the result will soon be apparent in a renewal of prosperity. For the first three months of this year the position of the silk market was in a very unsatisfactory condition and at one time a panic in the trade was feared. This was happily averted. In America an improvement in the demand has taken place and in Europe the new season has commenced under favourable auspices; stocks have been considerably reduced but remain sufficiently large to keep prices down to a level that should encourage consumption. In spite of the severe crisis of last season the total of the combined exports from China and Japan shows that the trade is one which is still on the increase. It is matter for regret that no indications are yet apparent that the Chinese Government are preparing to give effect to their expressed intention of reforming the national currency, and the confusion and disturbance to trade, caused by the excessive and uncontrolled coining of silver and copper subsidiary coins, continue. Further complications threaten to arise out of the issue of notes by various Chinese Banks throughout the Empire, but it is to be hoped that the Central Government will before long realize the necessity of taking steps to ensure that all such issues are supported by adequate and controlled reserves of uniform value. As regards prospects in the Far East, it was unfortunate that just when a long continuance of trade depression, due to local causes, might have been expected to change for the better the financial crisis occurred in America. This affected the European money markets, causing a contraction of credit, and proved to be the forerunner of the prevailing restriction of trade all over the world. Though as yet there are no clear signs of the long deferred reaction, still cheap money and diminishing stocks are factors which must sooner or later bring about a commercial revival and I think we may therefore continue to take a hopeful view of the future. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, as presented I shall be pleased to answer, to the best of my ability, any questions you may put to the chair. (Applause).

No questions being asked.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. C. E. ANTON said—It gives me much pleasure to second the adoption of the report and accounts, and in doing so, I feel justified in saying that shareholders will have received with very great satisfaction the statement of the six months' working, the more so, seeing that the period has been one of restricted trade in nearly all directions. The Directorate and management have good cause to congratulate themselves on the result, and, as pointed out by the Chairman, it is very gratifying to notice the large increase in the figures under the various headings of the accounts presented. The general depression in the Far East has been very protracted and of a far reaching character but, although the end of it is not yet in sight, I think that in the natural course of events we may confidently look forward to a return of better times—perhaps at no very distant date—in which we may rest assured the Bank will participate by increased prosperity. That competition in all classes of business in the East has become very severe cannot be gainsaid, and I take it that in backing there is no exception, and for that and other reasons it seems to me the policy pursued of continuing to add to the Bank's reserves is a wise and prudent measure (Applause).

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. HENRY HUMPHREYS proposed that the appointment of Mr. C. S. Gubbay, Mr. E. G. Barrett, Mr. C. G. B. Broderson, the Honourable Mr. W. J. Gresson, and Mr. W. Helms as Directors be confirmed.

Mr. W. DUNBAR seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN:—That is all the business, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. Dividend Warrants will be ready on Monday.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LD.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. Ltd. was held at the offices of the Company on August 24th. Mr. H. P. White presided, and there were present Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. C. Brodersen, G. Friesland, W. Helms, D. W. Craddock, E. G. Barrett, J. S. Van Buren (directors), R. Mitchell (acting chief manager), T. I. Rose (Secretary), H. Humphreys, J. W. C. Bonnar, W. C. Jack, L. Skinner, W. E. Clarke, E. Georg, L. Berindoague, P. Nalin, P. Durnerin, Chow Sin Ki and Lo Cheung Shui.

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen: The report and accounts having been in your hands for some time, I will, with your permission, take them as read. As a result of the working for the half year ending on 30th June last we have available for appropriation a sum of \$705,270.19 out of which your Directors recommend that a dividend of 8 per cent.—\$4 per share be paid, absorbing \$200,000; that a further sum of \$50,000 be placed to the credit of No. 1 Dock Extension account; that \$65,820 be written off the value of Kowloon Dock; \$4,602.9t off the value of Cosmopolitan Dock; and that the balance of \$384,847.24 be carried forward to a new account. It is hoped that this proposed distribution of profits will meet with your approval. The past half year's work showing a net profit of \$274,577.68 will not, I venture to think, be regarded as unsatisfactory in face of the extraordinary depression that existed, and I regret to say still exists in shipping the world over. This depression is brought forcibly to our notice by the number of vessels that have been laid up in this harbour during the past year for want of lucrative employment, and you will readily understand, re-acts seriously on the business of a company such as ours. Further, in view of the fact that a certain proportion of the work executed during the period has been "New Work," the profits on which, as pointed out on a previous occasion, are necessarily small owing to keen competition, we may perhaps congratulate ourselves on the result now shown. The aggregate tonnage of vessels docked during the period under review is less than for some years past, there being a falling off under the heading of Merchant Shipping, and an increase under that of British and Foreign men-of-war. Turning to the accounts, you will notice that the amount under the heading of sundry creditors shows a decrease of about \$247,000 and the item sundry debtors is lower by \$214,000, while the value of material on hand shows a reduction of \$227,000. This is partly due to a revision in the system of ordering material, allowing the different establishments to draw on one another more freely and using up old stock. The Sub-Committee of Directors have concluded their investigations and have submitted their report to the full Board and it is reasonable to hope that beneficial results will accrue from their recommendations. You are doubtless aware that the recent disastrous typhoon has put a considerable amount of work into our hands—no very extensive repairs—but coming as it has done all at one time, the resources of our establishments and services of the staff are taxed to the utmost, particularly as a scarcity of labour is apparent. The tug and salvage boat "David Gillies" rendered yeoman services to shipping after the blow and the Company is to be congratulated in the acquisition of what will, I trust, prove a valuable asset. I am glad to be able to state that the Company's property suffered but little damage. Gentlemen: I do not know that I can add anything to what I have said, except to say that the prospects for the current half year, with the work we have already in hand, are favourable, and before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions that shareholders may wish to ask.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. BONNAR, in seconding, said—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I have much

pleasure in seconding the proposal that the report and accounts as presented, be adopted. During the period which these accounts cover, business in every direction has been in a very dull and depressed condition, shipping being no exception. Advice from home are that a great many steamers are laid up for want of remunerative employment, and we know that in the East the same unsatisfactory state of affairs exists. Under these circumstances I think we ought to feel very thankful that our accounts show an increase in net profit of roughly \$110,000 over the previous six months. I notice that \$50,000 is being put to special account of No 1 Dock Extension, and feel sure that this work, when completed, will bring in more grist to the mill. It is gratifying to learn that during the recent typhoon the Company suffered very little damage. I don't know whether we shall ever see the same prosperous years that the Company experienced in the past; some say we won't, but I for one am not without hope, and with a Board of Directors who have the Company's interests at heart, an energetic and willing staff, and up-to-date appliances, we can look forward with confidence to being able to take advantage of improvement in trade generally when it comes, and competition without fear.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

ASTOR HOUSE HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED SHANGHAI.

The report of the Directors for presentation to the shareholders at the seventh annual general meeting to be held at the Astor House Hotel on Thursday, reads:—

Gentlemen,—The Directors beg to submit their report and audited statement of accounts, to 30th June, 1908.

On 31st December, 1907, the 8 per cent Debenture issue of Taels 450,000 (part of authorised issue of Taels 500,000) was paid off and replaced by a new issue of Taels 750,000 at 7 per cent all of which has been taken up by the public at par.

The Directors regret that while the revenue from local patronage is considerably larger than in the previous year, the falling off in the number of guests visiting the port, which is the source from which the bulk of the income is derived, has been so heavy that in spite of economies in many directions the balance at credit of working account amounts to only \$44,318.18 against \$123,181.91 on 30th June 1907.

The Directors have pursued the same policy as heretofore in writing off large amounts for depreciation and maintenance, the accounts being treated in every respect as in years of prosperity, and although the result of so doing is to show a debt in profit and loss account of \$4,200.98 it is believed that the shareholders will approve of the Board's action in this respect.

A detailed statement of amounts spent on maintenance and repairs under various headings charged to Working Account, and further amounts written off for depreciation since the formation of the Company, is appended.

Directorate.—Mr. Jas. N. Jameson resigned his seat on 31st December, 1907, which remained vacant until the end of the financial year when Mr. Duncan McNeill was invited to join the Board. His appointment requires the confirmation of the shareholders.

Mr. Leslie J. Cobitt retires by rotation, but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Auditors.—Messrs. A. B. Leake and G. H. Thomson retire, but are willing to continue in Office, if re-elected.

Sharks are stated to be unusually abundant this year all along the coast between Tsingtao and Chefoo. The German gunboat *Luchs* saw several hammer-headed sharks sporting around its sides recently. The native fishermen caught two white sharks close to the Tsingtao wharves. The residents in Tsingtao have been notified not to go too far out to sea when bathing. Sharks have also been found in Chefoo harbour.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, August 24th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

CLAIM FOR OVER \$300,000.

The hearing of the case was continued in which the Imperial Bank of China sued Leung Shui Kong to recover \$346,045.65, money due and compound interest at a rate of eight per cent at half yearly rates upon the various items composing the claim.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) for the defendant.

Mr. Slade in opening the defence said that this case, which was terribly complicated in details, might be decided on certain broad facts which were really hardly in dispute. In August of 1897 the defendant's brother was appointed manager for the plaintiff bank in Tientsin. The plaintiffs required a guarantee bond for the due performance of his duties as manager, and they applied to the defendant to give that bond. It was quite clear from the terms of the bond or guarantee note that the brother, Leung King Wo, had already been appointed by the Imperial Bank of China to be its manager at Tientsin. In the evidence it was suggested that the bond was signed before the agreement, but he thought the explanation lay in the fact that the bond was drawn up before the agreement was signed. At the time he was appointed manager one of the bank regulations stated that all bank compradores over head office and branch were to be appointed by the Board of Directors. After the execution of the agreement appointing Leung King Wo manager, fresh regulations were made, one of which read—"The manager of an agency appointed by Head Office may engage a compradore, or if he likes, act jointly in lieu thereof." One of the directors who was called stated that these new regulations were not connected with the defendant. The first agreement entered into on August 13th, 1897, was for the period of one year on trial. Near the end of that year a new agreement was entered into whereby Leung King Wo was appointed agent of the Tientsin Branch for one year.

Evidence was called, and the hearing adjourned.

A RESERVED JUDGMENT.

His Lordship gave his reserved decision in the case brought by the Hip On Insurance Exchange and Loan Co., Ltd., and the Hongkong Manila Yuen Sheng Exchange and Trading Company, Ltd., against Li Po Yung and Li Po Kam to recover the sum of \$49,062.52, which the plaintiff firms alleged was the balance of principal, interest and costs due after deducting proceeds of sale and payments on account, under a mortgage dated 20th January, 1905, made between Li Po Kam, the defendant, of the one part, and Yuk Chi and Li Po Kwai, of the other part, to secure repayment of \$150,000 and interest, which the mortgagors jointly and severally covenanted to pay and which sum and the securities therefor were duly transferred to the plaintiff by deed dated 22nd July 1905, and made between Yu Yuk Chi and Li Po Kwai of the first part, Li Tsung Pak of the second part, and the plaintiffs of the third part.

His Lordship said the plaintiffs claimed that by an indenture of mortgage dated 10th January 1905, the defendant and Li Po Kam, as mortgagors, in consideration of certain parties named Yu Yuk Chi and Li Po Kwai as mortgagors, assisting one, Li Tsung Pak, the brother of the defendant, and Li Po Kam, in the settlement of his affair and in payment of his debts, agreed that they would, on the 20th January 1905, repay to the mortgagee a sum of money not exceeding \$150,000 as should have then been expended by the mortgagee. Li Po Kam assigned as security certain lands. A sum of \$150,000 was paid to the plaintiffs in respect of the debt of Li Tsung Pak, and by consent, Yu Yuk Chi and Li Po Kwai transferred to the plaintiffs all their rights under the indenture of mortgage, the interest being

reduced from twelve per cent. to eleven and a half per cent. The sum of \$150,000 had not been repaid, but the defendant had paid \$4,312.50 as interest. The plaintiffs, on 31st October, 1906, sold the property for \$180,000, but had to pay the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank some \$50,662.30 for principal, interest, and costs on their mortgage for \$60,000. The defendant owed the plaintiffs a balance of \$49,062.52. Li Po Yung, the first defendant, denied absolutely that the transfer to the plaintiffs was made with his consent. He did not either consent to a reduction in the rate of interest. In November 1905, he commenced an action which was withdrawn upon the plaintiff agreeing not to hold him liable in respect of the mortgage. Li Po Yung's defence was that he was unaware what sum, if any, had been paid by Yu Yuk Chi and Li Po Kwai and that the mortgage of 20th January 1905, and the transfer of July 22nd 1905, were in no case valid for more than the sums already paid on the latter date. He further stated that the sale made was not a real sale, but a pretended transaction at a gross under-value whereby the plaintiffs had acquired the property at a price less than two-thirds of the real value. He denied also any indebtedness to the plaintiffs because they had agreed to release him from all liability. Judgment was delivered for the defendants on the claim with costs, and on the counterclaim a decision was entered for Li Po Yung with costs.

Tuesday, August 25th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

CLAIM FOR OVER \$300,000.

The hearing of the case was continued in which the Imperial Bank of China sued Leung Shui Kong to recover \$316,045.65, money due and compound interest at a rate of eight per cent. at half yearly rates upon the various items composing the claim.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) for the defendant.

Mr. Pollock, in replying to the defence, said Mr. Slade's first point was that the appointment of Leung King Wo was for a year in the first instance, and that the surety's liability would not extend beyond that period. Although it was perfectly true that there was an agreement signed about a year after the first document, Mr. Pollock would venture to join issue with his learned friend upon his argument that the first appointment by the first agreement was for a year only. He would venture to submit that as a matter of fact there was nothing in the paragraph on which Mr. Slade relied to indicate that Leung King Wo's appointment was to be for a year only. That paragraph related to the terms of the agreement, and not to the period of the appointment. Leung Wo continued in the Tientsin office from August 1899 until June 1900 when the Boxer trouble broke out. Counsel said his point was that there was nothing in the agreement to indicate that Leung King Wo's responsibility was to terminate at the end of twelve months.

Mr. Pollock continued his address after this. He contended that Leung Kin Wo was using chops with the name of the Imperial Bank of China for the carrying on of a business which he did not report to the head office. The transactions should have been carried through on the premises of the Imperial Bank of China.

His Lordship—In order to bring the case within the particulars of the guarantee there is a contention of fraudulent appropriation.

Mr. Pollock—Not necessarily, my Lord. I should say a mere deficiency on any account would be sufficient.

His Lordship—Of course you are now suggesting that it was fraud and that Leung King Wo was appropriating this money to himself.

Mr. Pollock—Yes, my Lord, but I don't want you to think I rest my case exclusively on that.

His Lordship—The difficulty I feel is this, and I think it is against you: If it was so, why was it not at once detected, instead of after a certain period?

Mr. Pollock—For this reason: If you come across books which you are told are compradore books, the matter requires investigation. A considerable amount of investigation would be required, for instance, before it could be seen whether it was fair to call the books secret account books.

His Lordship—There is not much evidence of that investigation!

Mr. Pollock—Liquidators were sent up.

His Lordship—But they did not arrive at a conclusion for over a year.

Mr. Pollock—I think there are indications that in 1900 something was considered to be wrong.

His Lordship—Let me know the date on which Leung King Wo died?

Mr. Pollock—In August 1900—just after the Boxer trouble. The Bank had apparently found that in addition to the accounts disclosed there were many other accounts. Therefore, though the actual re-labelling does not seem to have taken place for a year after, still there appeared to be something wrong, and they looked to him. The accounts which form the subject of this claim were not included in the returns. In the guarantee bond Leung King Wo and the surety are to be held liable for any monies which should be lost either by Leung King Wo or by anybody he is over. We submit that that would cover any loss by Leung King Wo, and if he had had a compradore it would have covered any loss by his compradore. But the former having the management, and having chosen to deal with the accounts in a certain way, we submit that he is liable. My friend somewhat artfully contends that because he chose to label these accounts compradore accounts, the surety cannot be held liable.

His Lordship—As the Bank sanctioned the use of a compradore there must have been some form of business that a compradore would do.

Mr. Pollock—There is nothing to show in these regulations that an independent compradore must be appointed.

His Lordship—What position could a compradore be in except for doing a certain class of business?

Mr. Pollock—Take it to be so.

His Lordship—Then there must be some accounts. It appears to me that one of the points you have got to establish is this: The balance which stood to the credit of the Coast Defence Committee has disappeared, and is not traceable in the accounts as they stand. You have certainly got to show that the balance has disappeared. I understand the suggestion to be that that balance is to be found in the general accounts.

Mr. Slade—We don't know.

Mr. Pollock—My friend stated that it was sometime ago, but he seems to have repented.

Mr. Slade—This money is shown on the liquidation accounts to have been used for the benefit of the Bank.

His Lordship—I will put it rather more generally. Taking all the accounts together of the bank and compradore business, it does not show a deficit which would otherwise appear if the man had appropriated the money.

Mr. Pollock—Of course, the deficit is not shown. Supposing a man gets somebody to pay money into the bank and puts the money into his own pocket; the money is paid into the bank over the counter and entered in the compradore's books. Now, my Lord, the fact of the man putting the money into his pocket does not prevent the account from balancing because that sum of money would appear in the accounts.

His Lordship—These uncollectable accounts are accounts of persons who owe money to the bank, and have been legitimately described as losses due to bad management. They are not claiming in respect of those, they are claiming in respect of accounts with which there was a credit balance. That is the puzzle!

Mr. Pollock—Those which are put as assets are things which ought not to have been assets.

His Lordship—The claims made are in respect of credit balances.

Mr. Pollock—I submit all we have got to show is this: Here are assets uncollected. If

we can show that these items of claim are less than the balance, that is sufficient for our purpose.

His Lordship reserved his decision.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ,
(ACTING JUSTICE OF THE PEACE).

REPAIRS TO A CHINESE CLUB.

Action was brought by Tsang Wui Tsan to recover from Sin Yik Man the sum of \$101.20 balance due for work done and material supplied the defendant for repairing the Ohing Yan Club at 55, Lower Macao Row. Mr. Otto Kong Sing for the plaintiff stated that \$20 had been paid on account. His Lordship gave judgment for the balance, and costs.

Wednesday, August 28th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE).

CONSENTED TO JUDGMENT.

The Kung Yau Seng firm sued Tsang King to recover \$63 due on a promissory note.

Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. A. Holborow (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) for the defendant.

When the case was called and plaintiff did not appear Mr. Grist said—I think he must be in the other Court, or perhaps has gone to the Police Court.

His Lordship—Why should he go there?

Mr. Grist—They are so ridiculous, these people. They always go to the wrong place. I would ask your Lordship to adjourn the case until this afternoon.

Mr. Holborow—I think I am entitled to costs for coming here this morning.

Mr. Grist—I will ask your Lordship to adjourn that question.

Mr. Holborow—I was hoping the plaintiff would be here. I am willing to consent to judgment, but on terms.

His Lordship—Why cannot you go into that now?

Mr. Holborow—I am quite prepared. The defendant asks if my friend will grant him two weeks' time to pay. In other cases where he was concerned, Tsang King has always kept his promise.

Mr. Grist—I cannot agree. There is a balance due from a case a few weeks ago.

Mr. Holborow—That was paid on Saturday.

His Lordship—I will give judgment, with a stay of execution for a fortnight.

Mr. Grist—I cannot consent to that. This writ was issued on August 15th, and there is no reason why my client should not be entitled to interest. If the defendant will consent to pay interest at the usual rate from the date of execution of the writ I am prepared to consent to a stay of execution for a fortnight, with liberty to apply. Otherwise all sorts of things might happen: somebody else might put in execution, or he might run away.

Defendant's solicitor consented, and his Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff, execution to be stayed for a fortnight.

Count Jezieraky, Manager of the Tientsin Branch of the Russo-Chinese Bank, has been appointed Manager in Shanghai vice M. Drosmeier, who is understood to have severed his connexion with the Bank.

The Spanish Consul at Shanghai who recently announced that he had withdrawn protection from 60 or 70 Chinese subjects registered at the Amoy Consulate has since withdrawn protection from all Chinese registered as Spanish subjects in the Shanghai Consulate, and all properties registered at the Shanghai Consulate in the name of Spanish protégés have been withdrawn from the register. Reports have been called for from the Spanish Vice-Consulates in China with a similar object in view. The large number of Chinese who have been registered in the Spanish Consulates as protégés of Spain were probably connected with the trade with the Philippines when these islands were under the dominion of Spain.

Thursday, August 27th.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE), WITH COMMANDER R. M. PENFOLD, R.N., AND CAPTAIN ROBINSON (NAUTICAL ASSESSORS).

INTERESTING SALVAGE CLAIM.

Chun Tak Loong and Co. sued Messrs. Butterfield and Swire and the China Navigation Co. Ltd., their claim being for \$10,833 held by defendants as payment for services rendered in connection with the stranding of the s.s. "Akashi Maru."

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) appeared for the plaintiffs, the defendants being represented by Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master).

It was mentioned in the statement of claim that the plaintiffs were merchants carrying on business at 26, Des Voeux Road West, and the defendants, Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, were the agents in Hongkong, for the defendant Company. The "Akashi Maru" left Amoy on a voyage to Hongkong having on board, stored in the treasure room, treasure in the form of coins to the value of \$26,050 consigned to the plaintiffs, together with treasure to the value of \$8,141.12 consigned to other persons, ten bags of mails and other packages, the contents of which were unknown to the plaintiffs. At 8.25 a.m. on September 30th, 1906, the ship struck the outer part of the North Merope Shoal, and remained fast. At that time the wind was from the north east, and blowing with about force five. There was a heavy swell on the port beam of the "Akashi Maru," and the tide was about high water. Shortly after striking, signals for assistance were made to the s.s. "Yochow" belonging to the defendants, the China Navigation Co. Ltd., which was close by on a voyage from Amoy to Hongkong. The lifeboats of the "Akashi Maru" were launched and 62 steerage and seven first-class passengers and the captain, officers and crew of the "Akashi Maru," 129 in number, were safely carried to the "Yochow." The lifeboats were manned by the crew of the "Akashi Maru," and assisted during one or more trips by an officer and some of the men on the "Yochow." On her seventh and last trip the "Akashi Maru's" lifeboat safely carried to the "Yochow" the captain and officers and the contents of the treasure room of the "Akashi Maru," all with the exception of one bag of mails which was lost on being lowered into the lifeboat. The "Yochow" proceeded on her voyage to Hongkong, and the nine bags of mails from the "Akashi Maru" were delivered to the Post Office, and six boxes and ten packages and one brown paper parcel were delivered to Butterfield & Swire. The plaintiffs shortly afterwards found that one box of silver coins containing \$4,384 had not been received by the defendants, Butterfield and Swire, making the value of the treasure which came into the possession of the defendants \$29,807.12, of which \$21,666 was the property of the plaintiffs. The defendants, Butterfield and Swire, at some date unknown to the plaintiffs, delivered to the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs the value of \$24,112, part of the treasure received from the "Akashi Maru," leaving treasure to the value of \$29,566 in their hands; and the defendants claimed to be entitled to retain one half of this amount, namely, \$14,783 as remuneration for the salvage services rendered. On the 12th December, 1906, the defendants delivered to the respective owners one half of the treasure held by them, leaving in their hands treasure to the value of \$14,783 of which treasure to the value of \$10,833 belonged to the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs claimed (1) That the award due to the defendant company for salvage services rendered to the plaintiffs in saving the plaintiffs said treasure be assessed by this honourable Court; (2) That the defendants be ordered to deliver to the plaintiffs the \$10,833 in their possession, less such sum as may be awarded for salvage services in respect thereof; (3) Or that in lieu thereof the defendants do pay to the plaintiffs as damages the sum of \$10,833 less such sum as may be awarded as aforesaid; (4) \$1,000

damages for the wrongful detention of the said \$10,833.

In the statement of defence the defendants, Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, said they had no interest whatever in the subject matter of this action. In all matters and things connected with the claim they had acted merely as the agents of the defendants, the China Navigation Co. Ltd., and in no other capacity. The China Navigation Co. say that on the voyage of the "Akashi Maru," and at the time of the salvage services, the "Akashi Maru" was carrying a large number of passengers, and also treasure belonging to the plaintiffs and others, and that the passengers and treasure were saved from loss solely by the exertions of those on board the "Yochow." The wind was blowing with a force of six and upwards, and while the "Akashi Maru" was in danger of being completely lost, together with all those on board, the salvage services were rendered. It being observed by those on the "Yochow" that those on the "Akashi Maru" were launching life-boats, those on the "Yochow" waited until such boats, rowing with the wind and tide, ran alongside, and then all the occupants of such boats, consisting of certain of the passengers and certain of the crew of the "Akashi Maru," were safely hauled up on to the "Yochow." The second journey to the "Akashi Maru" was even more difficult and dangerous than the first, by reason of the force of the wind and sea. The number of persons rescued from the "Akashi Maru" was 133 in addition to the captain, officers and crew. During the second journey of the said life-boat a large craft, manned by Chinese, attempted to intercept the course of the life-boat and prevent her from reaching the "Akashi Maru," and such craft only desisted from the attempt because it was fired upon by those aboard the "Yochow." The China Navigation Co. say that the total amount of treasure which came into their hands amounted to \$9,833.86 Hongkong currency, of which \$21,444.34 and no more was claimed by plaintiffs as their property. The China Navigation Co. thought they had a lien on the sum claimed by the plaintiffs and that they were entitled to retain such sum as a reasonable reward for the salvage services rendered. The defendants, the China Navigation Co., by way of alternative defence to the whole action brought into Court the sum of \$2,144.93, and said that sum was sufficient to satisfy the plaintiffs' claim.

Mr. Slade said this action came before the Court in a somewhat unusual manner. It was an action to assess salvage services, brought, not by the salvor, but by the owner of the property which was saved. The defendants had adopted a decidedly unusual course of practice by taking the law into their own hands and assessing the value of their services at half the value of the treasure saved and keeping it, instead of doing what is usually done, applying to the Court to assess the value of their services and to fix the award to which they were entitled. When analysed, the allegations of fact in the pleadings did not differ materially, except in the degree of violence and the amount of danger which was met with by the salvors. It was a matter of common experience to the Court that salvors always thought they had done most remarkably well even when they had done only well and the fact that possibly the reward would be enhanced by the weather being made to appear worse than it perhaps was, sometimes tended to make them think it was very bad when it was only bad. In this case they were dependent to a large extent on the logs of the "Yochow." The logs were written approximately at the time of the occurrence of the events, and they were perfectly content to take the allegations in those logs which, he thought, would be found to differ very widely from the allegations of witnesses who would now speak of their recollections of weather nearly two years ago. His Lordship would see from the statement of claim that they did not seek in any way to minimise the services rendered. There was a heavy swell and a moderate breeze, and there undoubtedly was considerable merit in the action of the crew of the lifeboat who rowed off to this ship as she lay upon the reef and rescued people from her. They had a very hard pull against the wind and tide, and necessarily when laying alongside the ship they had to be careful that they were not thrown

against the side and the boat stove in. He did not wish to minimise the value of the crew's services, but a claim of \$14,000 for rowing a quarter of a mile in a lifeboat which did not belong to them was rather a stiff charge. The time occupied from the striking of the "Akashi Maru" until the "Yochow" had got her anchor up and was away on her voyage was only about seven hours. The ship herself, his Lordship would be satisfied, was never in the slightest danger. She had any amount of searoom, came round in a wide circle with her tow behind, and had her head to the wind and sea under the lee of this shoal, where she anchored. Counsel submitted that all the risk run in this matter was run by the men who rowed off in the boat. They were the only people who did anything very material or very meritorious, and he did not wish to do any more than justice to their merit in the slightest degree. The total amount of the treasure saved was \$29,833.86 and out of that the plaintiffs owned \$21,499.34, leaving \$8,334.52 belonging to other people. From the beginning the defendants had claimed to be entitled to have the total amount saved, that was to say \$14,916.93. Taking \$350 as a fair day's pay, it worked out that they were demanding six weeks pay for seven hours work, rather a handsome scale of remuneration. In the early part of December, 1906, the defendants returned the whole of the treasure to the various owners on receiving a deposit of fifty per cent. of the value. Salvage rewards ought to be liberal so as to encourage people to render salvage services, and he would ask his Lordship to render a liberal sum in this instance making the amount in some sort of proportion to the services rendered. A salvage service was a signal service, and was not estimated by so much for this and that except under very extraordinary and exceptional circumstances. He did not see on what possible principle of justice the defendants could be entitled to hang on to the money in the way they had, neither did he see how they should gain any advantage from it.

His Lordship—What proportion of salvage generally goes to the owners?

Mr. Slade—It depends entirely upon the circumstances of the case. There is no fixed proportion at all. What goes to the owners is always in proportion to the risk the owners have run.

Evidence was called, and the case adjourned.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

SUGAR.

Kobe, 18th August.—Sugar.—Beet.—Market firm, quotations unchanged. Cane.—Raw.—The market is stationary. Muscovados basis polarisation 96 per cent. Colour average 12½ is quoted at Y5.85/5.95 per picul ex ship. Formosa.—No stocks. Osaka Refined.—The Osaka Refinery held auctions on the 18th and 23rd instants. At the first sale of 7,100 bags offered, 6,600 bags were disposed of at an advance of from 2 to 15 Sen, while 500 bags were withdrawn. At the second sale, 4,600 bags were sold at unchanged prices and 500 bags were withdrawn.

YOKOHAMA, 15th Aug.—No change to report.

KEROSENE.

FOOCHOW, 14th August, 1908.—Imported since 1st June 1,286,821 gallons, as against 1,383,314 gallons for the corresponding period of last year.

YOKOHAMA, 15th Aug.—Arrivals and deliveries for the second half of July show. Standard Oil Company, arrivals nil; deliveries 5,500 cases; 900 units: Rising Sun Petroleum Co., arrivals nil; deliveries, 3,000 units.

FLOUR.

FOOCHOW, 14th August.—During the week 37,100 bags were imported, bringing the total since 1st June up to 106,564 which is a decrease compared with the 113,969 bags for the same period of 1907.

YOKOHAMA, 15th August.—Prices at home have gone up but this market has not risen in sympathy.

OPIUM.

Foochow, 14th August, 1908, business during the week is summarised as under:—

Stock on 6th August, 1908

Malwa chests	42
Patna chests	19
Benares chests	7
Persian chests	55

Total — 123

Imported during the week

Malwa chests	15
Patna chests	7
Benares chests	2
Persian chests	37

Total — 61

Sales during the week

Malwa chest	27
Patna chests	11
Benares chests	5
Persian chests	33

Total — 76

Estimated Stocks

Malwa chests	30
Patna chests	15
Benares chests	4
Persian chests	59

Total — 108

Quotations

Malwa chests, new \$955 a \$1,000, old \$1,030 a \$1,040
Patna chests, piculs \$1.20, new \$1,085 a \$1,090
Benares chests, piculs \$1.20, new \$1,050
Persian chests, \$860 a \$915, paper.

YARN.

Foochow, 14th August 1908.—During the week there were imported 408 piculs Indian, and 18 piculs native as compared with 715 piculs Indian and 46 piculs native for the corresponding week last year.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 21st August, 1908, states:—There is very little to say regarding our market this week, it has continued extremely quiet, and if anyone has done anything from first hands he is particularly anxious to keep it to himself. The fact is no one is proud of the prices that have to be accepted if he is forced to sell and would rather not have them quoted, and the buyer is not going to give it way if he has managed to book anything desirably cheap. From this it may be inferred that we imagine there is something doing all the time, although it may only be in quite a retail way. Holders are not going to stick to their cargo with the ominous prospects there are ahead, of not only lower original cost but higher Exchange. It is pretty generally considered that prices out here have about reached the limit, enhanced as they are by the wretched muddle that has been made over the currency question. There is absolutely no system, and the authorities of each and every Province, and there are eighteen of them, seem to be allowed to act on their own, quite independently of one another, as best suits their own particular book. Such a thing cannot possibly go on for ever, and unless a halt is called pretty soon now, and some drastic measures taken to rectify the harm that has already been done, there is no saying what the result will be to the country at large, but more especially to Foreign traders here, who have been relying on their Governments seeing their Treaties properly carried out, instead of allowing them to be treated with procrastination, if not complete evasion. It is not good enough to class the trade depression of China with that which is noticeable, as it happens at the present time, all over the world, for it might easily be argued that she is responsible for a large share of it all. With the proper development of her country, which it was not unreasonable to expect would have taken place before this, she would have been able to take and consume a vastly larger quantity of goods the world was prepared to supply her with, and at the same time, with adequate organisation, which she persistently refuses to adopt, have reaped the benefit of the immense stores of wealth that are hidden beneath the surface of her half barren Empire. During the interval the weather has been more favourable for the crops, a necessary quantity of rain having fallen, and the heat less intense. Shanghai has narrowly missed a typhoon, however, that struck inland a little south, fortunately, but it is feared considerable harm may have been done in its wake, news of which is not yet to hand. Clearances have improved, and as far as they go importers, as a whole, are quite pleased. The latest reports from Newchwang make some improvement in the exchange on this and a better feeling in the

market generally. Further business has been done here both from first and second hand holders, and at fairly steady to firm prices, for that market, chiefly of course in American makes. Tientsin is not doing much with this, and we do not think her spasmodic efforts to treat direct are meeting with much success. Re-exports from this are fairly good. The trade with the river is not very brisk just now, attention being paid at the moment more to agricultural pursuits than to commerce, and the off-take is poor. Ningpo is in much the same position, but it is to be hoped that the recent typhoon has not done anything to damage her crops, which, as we have already mentioned, are in a particularly favourable condition. The Manchester market is easier, but with the present all round state of uncertainty there is no disposition to start in buying yet awhile for the Spring. In most things there is fully sufficient here, and on the way, to meet all the requirements of the trade for the rest of the season, so the longer buying is put off the better. As the end of the season approaches "spot" cotton in Liverpool is rapidly coming down, to-day's price for Mid-American being 5.78d. against 5.97, according to yesterday's telegram, when August "futures" were quoted 5.85d. The "spot" price for Egyptian remains the same, namely 7½ths. News from New York is very sparse, but from the replies received to one or two test telegrams the market seems to be very steady and manufacturers showing little disposition to push business. It may be the facilities for doing business have been somewhat curtailed. The latest New York cotton quotations are 3.32 cents for October and 9.04 cents for December option, which shows a slight recovery from last week, and 9.42 cents, received this morning, for September is twelve points up. The recent arrivals of Indian yarn under indents has enabled the dealers to supply the wants of the trade to a great extent, and at prices under which importers are willing to sell their own cargo, consequently the turn over for the week is probably greater than we report. The weather is perfect for the growing cotton which should be in full blossom in a day or two now. The prospects in this neighbourhood still continue very favourable. The bulk of the current business continues to be conducted at the regular weekly auctions, supplemented by two or three others of a more or less heterogeneous nature, but all adding to the quantity thrust on the attentions of the trade, and taken all together making quite a fair amount. This of course obviates the necessity of calling on private sellers to a great extent, and monopolizes the bulk of the available cash. Taken on the whole grey shirtings have not fully maintained their values of last week, in spite of the lower exchange. Here and there a chop of 12 lbs. 36 in. stood out as exceptions in this morning's sale. For white shirtings the feeling was generally a little better, but Irishes were slightly easier. T. cloths were inclined to droop, but Jeans were fairly steady. Turkey reds continue to improve under the influence of the reduced quantities, and the better statistical position, which should soon compel more adequate prices being paid. The fast black cotton Italians this morning, which is really the only auction to judge by, showed rather a lower tendency for the majority of the cloths, but the Venetians were slightly firmer on the whole. The private market has been almost at a standstill, at least so far as we can learn, and subject to the remarks we have made above. We have heard of a sale of 8.4-lbs. Shirtings at Tls. 3.12½ for wheelbarrow chop and 10-lbs. 8 girl and boat chop at Tls. 3.6½. A sale is also reported of some 4.50 yard American shirtings at Tls. 3.50 under a private chop. Re-sales of 4.70 yard are published at the same price, 5 yard at Tls. 3.40 and 4 yard at Tls. 3.65. In the heavier cloths further sales have been made of American drills at Tls. 4.75 for Cameron. Tls. 4.80 for pacolet and Tls. 4.90 for pepperell, all nett we presume. In sheetings business is confined to resales on about the previous basis. Whitney Tls. 4.40 and 3.25 yard Tls. 4.00 to Tls. 4.05. Woollens.—Have kept steady to firm on the whole for all kinds, one or two colours in camlets being the exception.

EXPORTS:—

TEA.

Foochow, 14th August, 1906.—During the week the following settlements have taken place: Congous, 1,830 half chests; Souchongs, 3,740 half chests; Oolongs, 407 half chests scented teas 350 boxes; and Flowery Pekoes, 48 chests. This season's stocks comprise 54,760 half chests Congou, 15,460 half chests Souchong, 18,398 half chests Oolong, 589 boxes scented teas, and 366 chests Pekoe.

HANKOW, Aug. 19th.—Business reported since the 13th inst., is as under:—

	1908.	1907.
	½-Chests.	½-Chests.
Settlements	5,468	1,598
Consisting of the following Teas:—		
½-Chests.		per picul
Oopacks	1,310 at Tls. 11.50	12.75
Oonams	2,127	13.50
Oofaas	1,677	12.25
Ichangs	354	22.00

The following are Statistics at date compared with the corresponding statement of last season, viz, 21st August, 1907:—

	1908.	1907.
	½-Chests.	½-Chests.
HANKOW TEA		
Settlements	528,648	476,209
Shipments to Shanghai		
on Native account ...	41,000	4,900
Stock	52,109	23,092

Arrivals 621,667 504,201

	1908.	1907.
	½-Chests.	½-Chests.
KIUKIANG TEA.		
Settlements	179,120	181,120
Shipments to Shanghai		
on Native account ...	15,335	—
Stock	6,757	15,579

Arrivals 201,212 196,690

Comparative Quotations per picul are as under:—

	1908.	1907.
Ningchows Tls. 15.50 at 100.00	Tls. 16.60 at 100.00	
Khemuns.. ..	21.00	67.00
Hohows	19.00	24.50
Kutoans.. ..	22.50	27.00
Wenchows ..	19.50	21.00
Oopacks'... ..	11.50	26.00
Oonams	9.25	28.00
Oonfaas	12.00	36.00
Seangtams ..	9.00	18.50
Ichangs... ..	22.00	65.00

The export to 1st instant, as per Customs Returns stands thus:

	Hankow.	Kiukiang.
Season 1908-1909...lbs.	12,397,207	4,433,636
" 1907-1908... ..	11,476,141	5,370,255
" 1906-1907... ..	14,704,516	5,435,024

	1908/9	1907/8	1906/7
Via Shanghai,			
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
To Great Britain.....	2,173,487	2,384,167	2,896,769
" U. S. & Canada	5,555,740	3,645,051	2,067,660
" Continent	2,590,803	2,211,832	1,841,873
" Russia via North..	105,443	9,511	154,677
" Russia in Europe..	564,099	5,318,088	8,280,723
" Shanghai.....	3,494,417	1,955,745	4,799,960
Direct, 1908.			
U. S.	472,576	lbs.	
Gr. Britain	3,793,659	"	
Continent	367,332	"	
Russia in Europe...	5,433,132	"	
Russia in Asia	21,230,365	"	

CAMPHOR OIL.

Foochow, 16th August.—No fresh business is reported.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 31st August:—There is no market. Quotations are \$85.00 to \$88.00.

Foochow, 16th August, 1908:—There has been exported during the week 275 piculs, bringing the total since 1st June up to 988 piculs, as compared with 4,197 piculs for the same period in 1907.

JAPANESE MARKETS.

Kobe, August 18th, 1908.—Cotton.—American—Prices have declined heavily during the past fortnight owing to the condition of the new crop being reported fair. Middling October shipment is quoted at Y32.25, but spinners are hesitating to purchase anticipating a large crop and further decline. In consequence no business of importance has been done. "Spot" is nominal at Y30.00 for "Milling." Indian:—Very little business has been done as yet in new crop, it being somewhat early for this cotton. "Spot" remains dull and quiet, due to mills being well supplied apart from which shipments of contracted cotton are now arriving. Closing prices are:—Broach Y26.00; Akola Khamguam Y23.00; Bengal Y22.75. Chinese:—There is nothing of importance to report. "Best" is quoted at Y25.75. "Common" at Y23.50. Shirtings.—No change. Cotton

Goods and Fancies.—Since last report some orders forward arrivals have been booked, but the volume of business done is considerably less than that of previous years. The Osaka Market seems to have recovered slightly and delivery of new goods is progressing steadily. Worsteds and Woollens.—The first sales have taken place in Osaka. Goods held over from last year realize very low prices and are sold at losses varying from 20 to 30 per cent. New imports are not in demand yet. Metals.—Tinplates and Galvd. Plain sheets are firmer, but no signs of improvement in other varieties. Rice:—Market quiet.

YOKOHAMA, 15th August.—Cotton Yarns.—Quotations unchanged, but weaker. No business reported. Cotton Piece Goods.—More business doing, and probably the bottom has been touched in price, although there is some uncertainty as to future values. Woollens and Woollen Mixtures.—No change since last report, and conditions are, if anything, not so good. Textiles Generally.—Although clearances of greys show improvement, there is, so far, no movement in black and coloured. Raw Cotton.—Quotations are slightly lower, buyers still holding off in anticipation of still lower prices. Rice.—The market has seen no change whatever, and quotations are nominal. Metals.—No business to report. Window Glass.—A considerable revival in interest is apparent, due probably to the stiffening of home markets. Wheat.—The same as flour.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS

Per P. & O. steamer, *Delta*, sailed on 22nd August, 1908:—For New York:—20 bales raw silk. For Liverpool 1 case cigars. For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For St. Chamond:—30 bales raw silk. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk. For London:—169 bales waste silk, 268 bales pierced cocoons, 354 cases tea, 5 bales raw silk, 4 cases embroideries, 1 case silk, 1 case chinese paper picture, 1 case private effects. For Lyons:—60 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—155 bales raw silk.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 28th August, 1908.—The past week has produced but little change in the general condition of our market. A fair business has been transacted in Cements, and to some extent in Kowloon Wharves also, but otherwise demand has been of a very fitful order, and there is again but little of interest to report. Rates have not varied much during the interval, and at the close are fairly steady. Barsilver is quoted to-day at 23½d, and T. T. on London at 1s. 9½d. The rate on Shanghai remains at 75 T.T.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been booked at \$770 cum the interim dividend of £2 per share (at 1s. 9½d. ex=\$21.94) paid on the 24th instant, and later at \$750 ex div. at which rate more shares are available at the close. London is unchanged at £80 cum div. There is no change in Nationals which continue in request at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been done at \$750 and \$745 closing with buyers at the latter rate. North Chinas have improved to Tls. 80 and Yangtszes to \$160 both with buyers. Cantons continue on offer at \$220.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires are still procurable at \$315. Sales of China Fires are reported at \$92½ and \$93, closing with buyers at the former rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$27½ and close firm at the rate. Shell Transporters are in request at the improved rate of 44/- and Star Ferries (new) can still be placed at \$15.

REFINERIES.—Quotations are unchanged and there is no business to report.

MINING.—Raubs have been done at \$7½, and more shares can be had at the rate. Charbonnages continue in request at \$580.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been neglected during the week, and close with sellers at \$99 ex the interim dividend of \$4 per share paid on the 25th inst. Hongkong & Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$45 and close in further

request. Shanghai Docks have improved to Tls. 85 and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves to Tls. 172½ both with buyers in the North.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—No business is reported in this section, and quotations are without change.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have receded to Tls. 63, but otherwise there is no alteration in rates to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have again been done at \$9½ and Green Island Cements in fair quantities at \$10½. The latter company announces an interim dividend of 40 cents per share on account of 1908, payable on the 31st instant. Dairy Farms continue in request at \$19½ and United Asbestos at \$13. There are sellers of China-Borneos at \$10½. Ropes at \$24, and Campbell Moores at the reduced rate of \$9.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$750, x.d.
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Hell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10½, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 }	{ \$6½, sellers
China Provident	{ \$1 }	{ \$9½, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 63
Hongkong	\$10	\$11
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 67
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 242½
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$19½, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$45, sales & buy.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$99, x.d., sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 172½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10½
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$210	\$185
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16½
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$80
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$231, x.d.
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$24, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$220, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$92½, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$80½
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$315, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 80, sales
Union	\$100	\$745, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$160, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$94
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$27, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 118
West Point Building	\$50	\$46
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fr. 250	\$580, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$7½
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 }	{ \$14 }
Philippine Co.	{ \$1 }	{ \$2 }
	\$10	\$8, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$130, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$22
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$27½, sales
	\$15	\$35
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	\$20
Shell Transport Co.	21	44/- buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$25, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$15, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$23
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5½
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$4
Watkins	\$10	\$3
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9½
Wiesmann Ltd.	\$100	\$150, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$13, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$250, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10½, sellers

SMYTH, VERNON & Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

27th August, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks:—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$760, sales
National of China...	26	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	{ R187½ }	{ Tls. 175, sellers
	{ T125 }	
Insurance:—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$790, sellers
North-China	25	Tls. 78, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$166, sales
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$92, buyers
Shipping:—		
Indo - China { pref. }	\$210	Tls. 28½, buyers
Shell Trans. { def. }		Tls. 13½, buyers
& Trading { ord. }	21	\$22.50, sellers
S'hai 'Tug & { pref. }	10	\$29.10, sellers
Lighter { ord. }	T50	Tls. 47, sellers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 51, buyers
Kochien Transport- ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 48, sellers
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Eng...	T100	Tls. 84, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$106, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	Tls. 167½, sellers
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$47, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½, sellers
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 92½, sellers
China Refining	\$100	\$132½, sellers
Mining:—		
Raub Australian	{ 21 }	{ \$8, sellers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	Tls. 15½, buyers
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 117, sales
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$99, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Weihaiwei	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 100½, sellers
Cotton:—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 64, sellers
International	T75	Tls. 67, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 85, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 242½, sellers
H'kong C. S. W. D.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Industrial:—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 114, buyers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 51½, sales
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14, sellers
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 53½, buyers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$11, sellers
Maatschappij, & Co., in Langkat	Gs. 100	Tls. 560, buyers
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 95, buyers
S'hai Waterworks	220	Tls. 395, ex div.
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	50	\$30, sellers
Kalumpang Rubber	50	Tls. 56½, sellers
Eastern Fibre	10	nominal
Shanghai Electric Construction	210	\$9.12.6, sellers
Miscellaneous:—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$20, buyers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$43, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$12, sellers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$47, sellers
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$21½, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$17, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$98, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 6, sellers
Tsingtao Hotel	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$150, sellers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$47½, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazaar	T50	Tls. 42½, sales
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 59, sellers
China Im. & Ex. Lumber	T100	Tls. 85, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sellers
Dallas Horse R		
pository	T50	Tls. 25, sellers
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 27th August, 1908, states:—Since our last there has been very little business to report. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have had some attention at about the prices that prevailed last week, and a rise of Tls. 5 has taken place in Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. The dividend of £2 having been paid this week, shares were quoted as \$763 ex div. There are a few small lots on the market at the close at \$760. Yangtze Insurance Association. Shares have changed hands freely at \$166 with Exchange 73. Shipping.—Shell Transport and Trading Co. A sale has been made at 45/- with exchange 2/4. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. No transactions are reported this week. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. The market opened with sales at Tls. 160 for September and on the 22nd this rate still prevailed for business. On the 24th, however, a good demand set in and prices advanced to Tls. 165 for September, followed by sales at Tls. 167½ and Tls. 170. We would quote the rate at closing as Tls. 166 cash and Tls. 167½ for September and December. Sugars.—Nothing reported. Mining.—Nothing reported. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co., share have declined to Tls. 117. There are small lots for sale at this figure. Industrial.—Cotton Shares. There is nothing reported this week. Shanghai Gas Co. have buyers at Tls. 114. Shanghai Pulp and Paper Co. have improved to Tls. 62½ for cash and at this figure shares are wanted. Green Island Cements have changed hands at \$11. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. After business at Tls. 555 for cash was done a demand set in and shares were taken off the market at Tls. 560 and there were buyers at this figure. For September Tls. 565 and Tls. 567½ are both reported. Shanghai Electric Construction Co. Shares are marked down to £9. 12s. 6d. Miscellaneous.—Very little business has been done and rates are as appended below. Loans and Debentures.—There are no transactions reported this week.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, August 31st.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	221½
Credits 4 months' sight	226
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	180
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42½
Credits, 60 days' sight	44
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	132½
Bank, on demand	133
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	
Bank on demand	133
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	
ON MANILA.—On demand	86½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	75½
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	105½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	10½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	10½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	86½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.15
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$58.65
BAR SILVER per oz	23½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.	
Chinese	20 cents pieces...	\$6.00	discount.
"	10 " " "	6.85	"
Hongkong	20 " " "	5.80	"
"	10 " " "	5.85	"

FREIGHTS.

Foochow, August 14th.—To London.—45/- per ton of 40 cubic ft. To Antwerp, Bremen and Hamburg.—45/- per ton of 40 cubic ft. To Naples and Genoa.—45/- per ton of 40 cubic ft. To Trieste.—45/- per ton of 40 cubic ft. To Odessa.—35/- per ton of 40 cubic ft. To Australia.—30/- per ton of 40 cubic ft. To New York.—37/6 per ton of 40 cubic ft. To Common Overland Points.—1½ gold cents. To Pacific Coast Ports.—\$8 Gold per ton.

Hankow, 19th Aug.—Per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 at 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

August—
 ARRIVALS.
 21. Knivsberg, German str., from K. C. Wan.
 21. Manilla, German str., from Sydney.
 21. Tean, British str., from Manila.
 21. Tsinan, British str., from Australia.
 22. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 22. Kageshima Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 22. Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
 22. Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
 22. Kowloon, German str., from Swatow.
 22. Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 22. Port Maria, British str., from Moji.
 22. Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 22. Sopernik, Russian str., from Moji.
 22. Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Batavia.
 22. Victoria, Swedish str., from Kohsichang.
 23. Helene, German str., from Swatow.
 23. Hongmoh, British str., from Penang.
 23. Iyo Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
 23. Japan, British str., from Calcutta.
 23. Kueichow, British str., from Chefoo.
 23. Silesia, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
 23. Triumph, German str., from K. C. Wan.
 23. Ujina Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 24. Arnell, British str., from Whampoa.
 24. Brasilia, German str., from Singapore.
 24. Choshun Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 24. Forest Dale, British str., from Samarang.
 24. Gilbert, French str., from K. C. Wan.
 24. Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
 24. Indrani, British str., from New York.
 24. Lennox, British str., from Vancouver.
 24. Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 24. Pakling, British str., from Shanghai.
 24. Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 24. Samsen, German str., from Swatow.
 24. Silvia, German str., from Shanghai.
 24. Takasaki Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 24. Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Kuchinotzu.
 24. Yungchow, British str., from Shanghai.
 25. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 25. Lanchan, German str., from Moji.
 25. Locksun, German str., from Bangkok.
 25. Nord, British str., from Tientsin.
 25. Nore, British str., from London.
 25. P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 26. Abana, British str., from New York.
 26. Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
 26. Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 26. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 26. Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
 26. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 26. John Hardie, Brit. str., from New York.
 26. Keemun, British str., from Tacoma.
 26. Pheum-poh, British str., from Saigon.
 26. P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
 26. Syria, German str., from Yokohama.
 27. Bengloe, British str., from Yokohama.
 27. Cheongching, British str., from Tientsin.
 27. E. of Japan, British str., from Vancouver.
 27. Hopsang, British str., from Sourabaya.
 27. Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.

August—DEPARTURES.

21. Albenga, German str., for Singapore.
 21. Braemar, British str., for Moji.
 21. Derwent, British str., for Saigon.
 21. Eastern, Br. str., for Sydney & Australia.
 21. Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
 21. Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
 21. Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 21. Telmachus, British str., for Saigon.
 21. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 22. Barra, British str., for Labuan.
 22. Clippshing, British str., for Swatow.
 22. Delta, British str., for Europe, &c.
 22. Germania, German str., for Haiphong.
 22. Inaba Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 22. Knivsberg, German str., for Tourane.

22. Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
 22. Yoochow, British str., for Ningpo.
 22. Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 23. Amara, British str., for Moji.
 23. Chihli, British str., for Hoihow.
 23. Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 23. Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
 23. Port Maria, British str., for Colombo.
 23. Siam, British str., for Singapore.
 24. Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
 24. Kageshima M., Jap. str., for Singapore.
 24. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 25. Foochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 25. Helene, German str., for Hoihow.
 25. Indrani, British str., for Amoy.
 25. Kumsang, British str., for Singapore.
 25. Sopernik, Russian str., for Singapore.
 25. Tean, British str., for Manila.
 25. Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Hongay.
 25. Triumph, German str., for K. C. Wan.
 26. Aphrodite, British str., for Ocean Island.
 26. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 26. Choising, German str., for Swatow.
 26. Devawongse, German str., for Hoihow.
 26. Hinsang, British str., for Saigon.
 26. Hongmoh, British str., for Swatow.
 26. Kiukiang, British str., for Swatow.
 26. Kumeric, Br. str., for Keelung & Tacoma.
 26. Mathilda Korner, Ger. str., for Sourabaya.
 26. Nord, British str., for Singapore.
 26. Pakling, British str., for Singapore.
 26. P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., for Europe, &c.
 26. Silesia, Austrian str., for Singapore.
 26. Silvia, German str., for Singapore.
 26. Syria, British str., for Singapore.
 26. Takasaki Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 26. Tsinan, British str., for Kobe.
 27. Brasilia, British str., for Shanghai.
 27. Gilbert, French str., for K. C. Wan.
 27. Hanoi, French str., for K. C. Wan.
 27. Hupeh, British str., for Haiphong.
 27. Nore, British str., for Shanghai.
 27. P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
 27. Taishan, British str., for Saigon.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japan, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs Eddy, Messrs. E. S. Campbell, Alls, W. Van Andel, R. D. Morrison and A. Robin.
 Per Tsinan, from Australia, &c., Miss Morris, Miss Mach, Capt. Jobstone, Capt. Newbold, Messrs. Purnell, Ogilvy, Brooks, Fishwick and Reynolds.
 Per Manila, from Sydney, &c., Father Limbrook and servant, Brother Baldomer, Capt. J. Fawett, Messrs. Steincke, Frommud, Taubert and David D. Connell.
 Per Rubi, from Manila, Messrs. J. Hunter, I. Gutierrez, M. Gutierrez, M. Pronburg, M. Sutor, T. Berry, C. Thiesfeld, D. Guiseppe, August Parales, Pludon Parales and J. Foster.
 Per Empress of Japan, for Hongkong, from Vancouver, Hon. H. Dobson, Messrs. V. E. Miller and C. N. Laird; from Kobe, Capt. C. R. Wilkinson; from Shanghai, Messrs. F. Grantham and J. Carle.
 Per P. R. Luitpold, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr and Mrs G. da Luz, Mrs Bertha Holly and servant, Miss Reid, Messrs. F. J. V. Jorge, Frank Swift and W. B. Knight; from Kobe, Messrs. A. Kahse and José Frey; from Shanghai, Mr Naylor.
 Per P. E. Friedrich, from Hamburg, &c., Mr and Mrs James Sloan, Misses W. Schlick, I. Jinray and Karr, Capt. Wollseffer, Dr. A. van Engelen, Messrs. Ed. Keller, R. M. Macdonald, Y. B. Smith, Josef Kotraba, S. Claussen, Hans Anderson, E. Jorgensen, O. Bergström, Th. Schrader, E. Rigold, R. D. Caswell and I. P. Diore.

DEPARTED.

Per Zafiro, for Manila, Mr and Mrs E. W. Cappen, Mr and Mrs C. Domingo, Mrs M. Gino, Mrs G. Leonard, Miss H. E. Layton, Dr. F. P. Whitehill, Messrs. W. H. Taylor, P. Botelho, B. Nishioka, D. Matin, A. White, R. Lindley, G. C. Knight and C. Davies.

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